

*Prepared by Rosetta Epperson James and
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Introduction

This story centers upon David Alexander Epperson (1848-1938) and his wife, Mary Catherine Mangrum (1849-1925) - those two and their ancestors and their relatives. It seemed to their children that Father and Mother Epperson were related to half the families in Gibson and Posey Counties and to some in Vanderburg. We knew in a vague way that those ancestors came from Virginia and the Carolinas, through Kentucky, and that some of them were Martins and Williamses, Mangrums and Redmans. Finally when we undertook to write the facts and traditions, we found we knew too little about the subject. Our generation had forgotten too much. And here were Father and Mother Epperson's great-grandchildren coming along - a lovely flock of them - and unless somebody wrote the story for them, they would lose their heritage. And so we have worked and asked questions and searched records to find out more about those ancestors.

Counting our own generation as the first - that is, counting backward - each person has 64 ancestors back in the seventh generation; and we are descended in equal degree from each of the 64 - unless there have been marriages between kindred. We are not only Eppersons and Mangrums, Martins and Williamses; we are descended from Craig and Truax, from Lambert and Harris and Overton, from Sherwood and Goose and Lewis - and ever so many more. In a word, we are Americans.

Every ancestral family back of Father and Mother Epperson was rooted in America before the Revolutionary War, and most of them before 1700. Please, that is not a boast; it is a fact and it implies an obligation. America should mean something to us; it is no figure of speech to say that our ancestors made America. Its history and its geography should mean something to us. Nearly all those ancestors came from Virginia. Again it is neither a boast nor an apology - merely a fact. True, the Williamses came from North Carolina, the Martins from South Carolina; but both came earlier from Virginia. The Lamberts probably came from Pennsylvania to Virginia; the Truaxes probably from New York; but all, or nearly all, came from or through Virginia. Most of them tarried a few years or sometimes as much as thirty years in Kentucky, but as if drawn by one instinct they turned north and were ferried across the Ohio and struck into the Wabash woods. We knew that Charles Epperson, the Wheelwright, had lived some years in Warren County, Kentucky; but until this study began, we did not know that James Martin and Simon Williams and William Mangrum were once neighbors along the same creek in Warren County where Charles the Wheelwright built his mill. When they finally settled in ~~Indiana~~ Indiana it was a reunion of old neighbors.

As far as we know with certainty, these ancestors were common people. True, we may be descended from William Claiborne of Virginia (a disputed point), and if so, then some of our forefathers had a touch of "gentry" - but soon got over it. They worked with their hands, spinning and weaving, feeding and clothing and housing their families. Few of them ever held important offices; from colonial days on down they seem to have been just taxpayers. Nearly every man of them farmed. Some had other occupations on the side - medicine or the ministry; but down to 1880 practically every one of them farmed. Their story is no elegant, idle romance.

Consider how they moved, pushing the frontier forward. John Epperson (1745-1817) lived fifty-odd years in Albemarle County, Virginia, then moved to Lincoln County, Kentucky, and died there. His son, Charles the Wheelwright (1777-1844) grew up in Albemarle, married in Lincoln, spent half his life in Warren, and his old age in Gibson. His son Albert (1811-1882)

spent a third of his life in Kentucky, the rest in Indiana. Albert's son, David Alexander, was the first one in four generations who lived all of a long life in one neighborhood. And now we are on the move again. Youth now flies half way around the world to court and marry. We cannot change this condition; we can only hope that family traditions may not be altogether lost. It is wrong to neglect them; they are a part of the inheritance of children yet unborn.

It is a human weakness to get interested in family history about fifty years too late. When we are young we are sure we will remember all; when we are old we feel a despair at having forgotten so much. How often since beginning this work we have said: "If Grandmother Mangrum were alive, how many questions we'd be asking her." Her mind was a treasure-chest of warm and spirited things - many of which are lost now because no one wrote down her stories. Or if in 1850 some one had recorded all that Elizabeth, widow of Charles the Wheelwright, could have told, we'd know what her father and mother, James Andrew Smith and his wife Margaret Trux, told about Bedford County, Virginia, before the Revolution, and about Adair County, Kentucky. Back in 1813 Lieutenant Colonel James Martin, who was also Baptist Elder Martin, helped found a new church in the woods along Big Creek, near Cynthiana. If somebody had recorded his stories, we'd know more accurately the companies and regiments he and his brothers served in during the Revolution. We'd know more about his father, the wilderness surveyor who was Washington's friend; and we'd know the country between Vincennes and the Ohio looked when, in 1808, he rode horseback through the forest and preached in little log churches he himself had helped to build. Or let us drop down to 1840 and meet that brave great-grandmother, Polly Martin Williams (178 - 1847). But with her eyes level and honest upon us, we'd have to confess we do not know where her father, Lieutenant Colonel James Martin, and her father-in-law, staunch old Simon Williams, are buried: not many miles from Cynthiana, but now unmarked and forgotten. Not that we want to be forever dropping around graveyards, but there's a silent courtesy that ought not to be forgotten.

We began fifty years too late. But we hope the newest babies, when they are old, may pass down to their grand-children an inheritance, not of snobbery but of clean self-respect, deep-rooted through generations of good men and women. Our ancestors were not hifalutin', but we think most of them were sound, and some of them remarkably nice.

There are bound to be some mistakes, some gaps, in the story. If we had plenty of time and money and strength to go slowly through all the counties where our ancestors lived, and examine church and county records, and explore old cemeteries, and inspect old family Bibles, we could tell more. But that would take much time; and we might wait too long. Yes, we almost did wait too long.

If we seem fussy about identifying persons and places familiar to our generation, we take pains because in a few more years no one will be left who remembers our grandparents or the familiar landscape of our childhood. The names on the stones at Mt. Moriah will be meaningless unless we give the clue. We want to insist that you have a good atlas at hand and locate the counties concerned in the story, and get the lay of the land, the drift of mountains and valleys and rivercourses. Some time you may drive through Cumberland Gap, where the southwestern tip of Virginia touches the angle of Kentucky and Tennessee. Park a little while and recall the names of your ancestors who trudged through the Gap on their way to new homes in the wilderness.

We have not attempted the history of the modern families that have married into the Eppersons and Mangrums. This is not partiality - merely there is not time and strength enough. We leave that to others. If you wonder why we include the names of all the children in a family long ago, when only one

child in that household was our direct ancestor, we think that is the best way of showing that we are descended from a great cross-section of the families that formed America. We are related to a host of the common people. "We are bound together in the bundle of life."

A word about the editorial "we." (We hope that children a hundred years from now may want to identify the persons concerned.) We are Aunt Rosetta and Uncle Olan James; or, more formally, Rosetta Epperson James and her husband, E. O. James. She has been the guiding force, the rememberer. Her mind and heart kept alive the stories her grandparents told. E. O. J. has done the writing, and has had main charge of gathering old records, and having county officials search their files for wills and deeds and marriage bonds. He has pestered willing and unwilling persons far away, until they have come to their local courthouses and looked for the items needed. Now E. O. J. is not a descendant, only an in-law; but during the three years he has worked on the story he feels as though he had become a flesh-and-blood descendant of Charles the Wheelwright, and of Col. James Martin, and of old Simon Williams and William Vancrum Sr. He feels admiration and affection for them. They have a way of growing on the imagination, and so he hopes he may be allowed to write "we."

We have tried to be scrupulously careful for accuracy; and that means that in several instances we have had to correct mistakes that have got into family tradition and especially into some of the D. A. R. records. There is no ill-will, no unkindness, in making a needed correction. We must not say we know unless we have real proof.

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The Lamberts and John Epperson

If the youngsters of a future generation visit Mt. Moriah cemetery (four miles northwest of Hautstadt) ^{Indiana} they will find on a certain lot along the north side, next the road, the gravestone of Charles Epperson (1777-1844), whom our generation speaks of as Charles the Wheelwright. The word "wheelwright" is not on the stone, but the stone-cutter did his best at graving some tools and a wheel. It is no slander to say the stone-cutter was not as clever with his mallet and chisel as Charles Epperson had to be with adze and draw-knife and ream, for the stone-cutter's wheel is only to look at, while the Wheelwright's wheels had to keep running and carry weight over long and rough roads. He had the skill and know-how to go into the woods and choose the right tree, and cure the staves and blocks and shape them into hub and spokes and felloe, and fit the tire. He must have made water-wheels too, for he built at least one mill; and no doubt he was in demand for making and mending spinning-wheels; but mainly it was cart-wheels and wagon-wheels and carriage-wheels. And on the frontier he would have to make harness hames; and a man who could make a wheel was probably able to make a tub or a firkin; and was he up to the nice job of making a snath for a scythe?

When we began to set this story in order, Charles the Wheelwright was the earliest Epperson ancestor we knew about. Now we know there were Eppersons and Appersons in Virginia as early as 1699. (The two names were interchangeable, depending on how tax collectors and members of the family felt like spelling them.) By 1750 there were a dozen or twenty families of the two names, distributed over several counties of Virginia, and nobody knows which families were closely related or distantly related or not at all. Likewise nobody knows where the first Appersons-Eppersons in America came from. Some say from England, some say from France, and at least one descendant guessed Ireland. We only know there were Eppersons in different shires in England long before Virginia was settled. One Epperson

family believes it came from an unemployed French duke by the name of Epernon. Maybe it did; but we feel sure we never sprang from any French duke, particularly an unemployed one. The colonial Eppersons may well have come from different sources quite unrelated.

The earliest Epperson ancestor of our line about whom we are certain was John (abt. 1745-1817) who was living in Albemarle County, Virginia, before the Revolutionary War. He married Elizabeth Lambert about 1771. Her father, Charles Lambert Sr. had received a grant of 400 acres in Albemarle County from the colonial government in 1769, and later the elder Lambert had moved farther southwest into Bedford County. That tract of land lies on the slope of Yellow Mountain, around the headwaters of Meecham's River, about fifteen miles west of Charlottesville. You will notice in your atlas that Charlottesville is just a few miles north of the 38th parallel; and if you'll turn the page to Indiana you will see that Evansville is a little way south of the 38th. (This was written many months before Korea became a nuisance.) We have an impression that in altitude Yellow Mountain is ~~xxxxxxxx~~ not as tall as Mt. Shasta and somewhat higher than Kitchin's Hill. The Blue Ridge mountains tower above it to the west, and Woods' Gap, a pass in the mountains back of Yellow Mountain, was named for one Michael Woods, who may have been related to our Lambert ancestors. We have letters from a man now living in California who, as a youth, hunted wild turkeys on Yellow Mountain. In a photograph it looks as gentle and easy as a bump in a meadow. In 1791 Charles Lambert Sr. sold the 400 acres to his son-in-law John Epperson "in consideration of the sum of two hundred Pounds to him paid in hand." Most likely John and Elizabeth Epperson had been living on that land for many years.

Who were John's ancestors? We do not know. We could fill a page with guess-work, names of Appersons-Eppersons who were in Virginia in the 1740's when John was born, but we have no proof nor even any probability.

There were other Eppersons in Albemarle County in John's time. Especially there was David Epperson (1734-1799) who had eight sons and five daughters. Most likely our John was related to David - maybe a younger brother, a nephew or a cousin - but not a son. David had a son John, and David's John and our John each married an Elizabeth - which has caused some confusion in deeds and other legal documents. Moreover, David and our John each had sons with the forenames of David, William and Charles. Further, some of David's sons migrated to Kentucky and then to Indiana and Illinois. (In 1933 Mrs. Edna Epperson Brinkman wrote a book, "The Story of David Epperson and his Family of Albemarle County." She confused the two John Eppersons, making them identical, a forgivable mistake.) The Lambert documents are the only sure means of identifying our John. Because of this confusion we cannot be sure whether the John Epperson of Albemarle who served in the Revolutionary War was David's son John or our John. Our Epperson girls need not worry; they have at least four known and proven Revolutionary ancestors.

And so on the east slope of the Blue Ridge John and Elizabeth Epperson's children were born - eight that we know of - and the older sons grew to manhood. The landscape shines in the imagination because Thomas Jefferson's Monticello is in Albemarle County. And of course it would be wonderfully nice to think of Mr. Jefferson as a neighbor, on speaking terms; and with the imagination warmed up and going strong you could picture Charles the Wheelwright mending a carriage wheel for Thomas Jefferson, and the great man shaking the hands of the youth and giving him some sound advice. But stop right here! If we go on in that direction, every antique shop in Virginia and Kentucky will be offering authentic wheels made by Charles Epperson, and the demand will be so great the makers of antiques will be overworked, and Mt. Moriah cemetery will be made into a government project, with statues and custodians and everything. It is tempting, we admit. But the fact is, Monticello is

two miles east of Charlottesville, while Yellow Mountain is some seventeen or eighteen miles distant, westerly across the wide valley. It is unlikely that John Epperson and his big boys ever had more than a glimpse of Thomas Jefferson - and maybe not even that.

And now to get better acquainted with our Lambert ancestors:- It is said that Charles Lambert Sr. came from Pennsylvania and that he was related to the 'Michael Woods family for whom Woods' Gap was named - but we have no proof. The will of Charles Lambert Sr. was drawn in Russell Parish, Bedford County, June 21, 1797, and proved on December 24, 1798. His wife was Catherine; we do not know her maiden name. They had five sons: Charles Jr., David, George, William, and John; and two daughters, Elizabeth, wife of John Epperson, and Dianah, wife of Charles Carter. Charles Lambert Jr. and David were married and had children when the will was drawn; the will implies the other sons were not married. It is almost certain that Elizabeth Epperson was older than any of her brothers, born a little before 1750. Dianah was born about 1760, and married Charles Carter in 1787. Father Lambert gave his daughters a dollar each, explaining that each of them had "already received her proportionate share of my estate." The old gentleman could be crusty enough on occasion. He pointedly disliked his daughter-in-law Nancy, wife of Charles Lambert Jr., and specified that she should never have any share in his estate. Military land grants show that a Charles Lambert served in the Revolutionary War; this was probably Elizabeth Epperson's brother - but we have not tried to prove that.

The two brothers-in-law, John Epperson and Charles Carter, evidently pulled together in team work, and they felt the urge to take up new lands in Kentucky. Charles Carter moved first, probably in the summer of 1798, for he first appears on the tax roll in Kentucky in 1799. Charles Carter was the oldest of ten children of Peter and Mary Ann Ellis Carter, of Amherst county, Virginia. When he moved to

Lincoln County, Kentucky, three of his brothers - John, Jesse, and Peter - moved with him, and two other brothers - Edward and Solomon - joined him a few years later. Charles and the three brothers who came with him took up land along Hanging Fork Creek in Lincoln County. (Charles and his wife Diana had six children when they moved, and more to come. If the other brothers did as well, no wonder Lincoln County became a Carter strong-hold.) Charles Carter lived until 1839. He was one of the executors of John Epperson's estate in 1817. In one court order he is called Colonel Carter - whether by military record or by Kentucky courtesy we do not know. At least two of his descendants married distant Epperson cousins in the 1850's.

On November 28, 1799, John Epperson and Elizabeth sold to James Durrett their 400 acres on Yellow Mountain. They had paid 200 pounds; they sold for 800 - though Father Lambert may have given them a bargain price back in 1791 as a part of his daughter's inheritance. Early in 1800 Elizabeth relinquished her dower right in that land, and probably in the spring or early summer John and his family (excepting son William) started to Kentucky. Here is a roll-call of their ~~of their~~ eight children in 1800:- (we have Bible record ages for two, census record age for a third, and the others are approximated from the date when they first appeared on the tax rolls) : -i) William, b. 1772, stayed behind in Albemarle and later moved with his wife's people, the Montgomery family.

- ii) Charles, b. 1777
- iii) David, b. about 1780
- iv) Sally, b. about 1783
- v) Lambert, b. about 1785
- vi) Samuel, b. about 1788
- vii) Jesse, b. 1790
- viii) George L., b. about 1796.

There may have been other children who died young. Lambert and Samuel reached maturity, but as they disappeared from the tax rolls before their father's death (1817), and were not named in the settlement of his estate, it is fairly certain they died unmarried or at least without children.

I wish we had a snapshot of them as they trudged through Cumberland Gap: who rode, who walked, who carried what; and with what mixture of weariness and hope they looked across the blue-forested ridges that hid the headwaters of the Cumberland River. How far did their dreams go? In his old age, Charles would cross the Ohio and spend his last years in the Wabash Woods. Ten-year old Jesse would outlive all the rest (as far as we know, not having the death-date of George). Jesse lived until 1871 and spent the last thirty-two years of his life west of the Mississippi, in sight of where the broad Missouri rolls.

By asking questions and using his woodman's sense, John Epperson would follow the Wilderness "Trace" down to Crab Orchard, and from there it would be only twelve miles or so to where the four Carters had settled along Hanging Fork. Did the Carters know they were coming? Probably they expected them some time that summer, but not exactly when - not in time to bake a cake. All we know for sure is that John Epperson and his son Charles the Wheelwright were on the tax roll in Lincoln County in the early summer of 1801, and in 1802 David also was on the list. John had 142 acres along Hanging Fork.

William, John's oldest son, came with his Montgomery in-laws to Adair County a year or so after his father and brothers had settled in Lincoln County. There are two traditions among William's descendants: one, that he and his father-in-law, Francis Montgomery, and their families migrated first to Washington County about 1801, and then moved to Adair; the other, that they migrated directly to Adair, not later than 1803. In any case, William held his place as the responsible oldest son of John's family.

We wish we knew more about John and his family in Lincoln County. In 1805 son David married and set up for himself; and in that same year daughter Sally married Archibald Northcutt. The southwest part of Lincoln County was separated and became Casey County, and the Northcutts seem to have

lived in the section that became Casey. Charles the Wheelwright married in the summer of 1807, and Jesse in 1813, after doing his turn in the War of 1812. Lambert and Samuel died soon after coming of age, and George L., the baby, came of age in 1817, the year his father died.

We do not know the exact date of John Epperson's death. His goods were sold by probate order on October 18, 1817. Allowing some lee-way between his death and that sale, we estimate that he died between mid-August and mid-September. He left no will. His son William and his brother-in-law Charles Carter were appointed administrators.

What items were sold and what prices did they bring? We can't give a perfect count, because the inventory lists some odd lots, such as "one lot of hoggs, 3 yearlings"; but there were about 15 or 20 hogs; definitely 25 sheep; 6 cows and 3 heifers; 6 horses and 1 colt; 1 wagon, 5 plows, 1 harrow, and a miscellaneous lot of tools and furniture. The 10 best hogs brought \$40.00; one mamma-hog and her pre-school children brought \$9.00. One mare brought \$67, and the wagon \$60. One heifer brought \$8.62 $\frac{1}{2}$ - and the half-cent is no fluke; a "bit" was 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents, half a shilling. The herd bull sold for \$10.00, while one steer brought \$16.00 - and you can spend long winter evenings figuring that one out. The steer may have been broken to the yoke, and a tamed ox had a special value. Anyway, that steer was bought by Isaac Shelby, the first governor of Kentucky - which is one of the few occasions the Eppersons ever got close to a governor. The inventory included 575 pounds of loose tobacco at 3 cents a pound. The widow Elizabeth - great-great-grandmother of our generation - kept stock and tools necessary to run the farm and the house: such items as clevises, "streachers", single-trees; meal sifter, cupboard, "one powter wheel and reel." But the inventory forgot to mention many things. John must have had a cradle and a flail to harvest and thresh the wheat that was sold, and he must have had a scythe and hand-rake and forks to cure the two stacks of hay.

rake to cure the two stacks of hay. Axes and wedges and a cross-cut saw are listed, but he must have had a frow for riving shakes, and a stout grubbing hoe, and harness for the six horses, and at least one saddle. And surely great-great-grandmother kept some speckled dominicker hens and a rooster, and a flock of geese - for she had to make featherbeds and pillows. Turkeys - probably none; you went into the woods and got your turkeys on the hoof. The last item reserved by the widow was "One Big Bible", appraised at \$4.00. Who has it now, I wonder, with its priceless family record? We have purposely kept back the two highest-priced items:- the Negro woman, Ester, brought \$186 - a price that indicates she was getting old; and the Negro man, Will, brought a stunning \$650 - a total of \$xxx \$836 for the slaves - worth more than all the other livestock. William Epperson bought them.

The widow Elizabeth continued to run the farm. In the 1820 census she had in her home a girl between 10 and 16, possibly a grand-daughter or one of her Carter nieces. In the 1830 census she appears to have been living alone - between 80 and 90 years of age. She died late in 1832 (we suppose that would be the date), for in January, 1833, her surviving children joined in selling some land that had belonged to their parents. Some say that John and Elizabeth were buried on their farm; others, that they were buried at the McCormack Church.

It is interesting to note that the Emerson family that later moved to Gibson County, Indiana, were living in Lincoln County when John Epperson moved there. The Carters were not related to those of Gibson and Posey. Joshua Embree, an early settler of Gibson County, was living in Lincoln, as were several of the Alcorn family, later of Gibson. We do not know whether any of these (except the Carters) knew John Epperson.

But there was another family along Hanging Fork who came to have a curious place in Epperson history. As early as 1788, William Vantrease and his wife Christina were living on Hanging Fork. They had a

son Samuel, b. about 1790, and probably other children. William and Christina continued to live in Lincoln County until 1824. They were good neighbors to the Eppersons, and signed as witnesses to some of the probate papers. Their son Samuel (usually spelling his name Vontress was, from 1823 on, a near neighbor of our Charles Epperson in Warren County; and Samuel's youngest son, Samuel J., figures after the Civil War as the mysterious "uncle" from Kentucky who visited Albert Epperson in Indiana and gave David Alexander the famous ram's head cane. But that story will come later.

At least three of John Epperson's sons were skilled carpenters or cabinet-makers or builders. William built two mills in Adair County - one a sawmill, the other a grist mill; one that he built in 1816 a few miles from Columbia, Adair County, still stands. We have already spoken about Charles's skill with tools. And one of Jesse Epperson's grandsons living in Benton County, Missouri, treasures a black walnut table made by Jesse. These three (and maybe more) sons must have learned the know-how from their father.

And now let us call the family roll once more:-

- i) William (1772-1852) m. Elizabeth Montgomery; lived the last fifty years of his life in Adair County; the most successful financially.
- ii) Charles the wheelwright (1777-1844)
- iii) David, b. abt 1780; d. before 1853.
- iv) Sally, b. abt 1785; m. Archibald Northcutt in 1805; they joined in signing deed to her share of her father's land in 1833. Northcutt d. in Casey County in 1841, leaving one son, William L. ~~father,~~ ~~no further record.~~
- v) Lambert, b. abt. 1785; taxed in Lincoln County between 1808 and 1815, apparently as a single man. We estimate that he died in 1816.
- vi) Samuel, b. about 1788; on tax list for 1811; no further record. Indeed we have no proof that he was a son of John and Elizabeth, but no other Epperson family is on record in Lincoln County at that time.
- vii) Jesse 1790-1871.
- viii) George L.; b. abt. 1796; seems to have left Lincoln County after his father's death; lived in Warren County for a time; his name coupled with that of Charles a few times; then moved to Simpson County; lived there in 1833 when the heirs sold their father's land. No further record, and as Simpson County records were burned sixty-odd years ago, it is unlikely that we shall know more about him.

We have on file considerable records of the descendants of William, David and Jesse, fairly complete down to 1875 and in several branches down to the present generation. We plan to place copies of these in a few libraries that specialize in family history. Here are brief sketches:-

The Family of William Epperson of Adair County

William (1772-1852) married Elizabeth Montgomery (1779-1842) a daughter of Francis and Mary (Smith) Montgomery, presumably in Albemarle County and about 1800. Francis Montgomery and his wife had a large family, all of whom seem to have migrated to Adair County; likewise Mary Montgomery's Smith kindred came to Adair. It is possible that those Smiths were related to our James Andrew Smith clan, but that is a complication which we haven't looked into closely. (We have a fairly complete record of the Montgomery family.) Francis Montgomery was wealthy, and William Epperson was quite well-to-do. He and his wife had 9 children; we have the birth-years of four; the birth-years of the others are only approximate, xxxxxx and we are not sure of the order in which some of them came.

- i) Albert (1804-1863) was married twice; lived in the 1830's and early 1840's in Cumberland County, Ky.; is believed to have had no children by his first marriage, but that period is rather uncertain. Married (2) Letitia Caldwell in 1847; moved to Axtell, Macon County, Missouri; had 6 children by second marriage; many descendants living.
- ii) David Gallatin md. Mary Garner in Adair County in 1835. He d. in the spring of 1837, leaving one child, Charles Gallatin Epperson. For some reason the court denied petition of the widowed mother to be guardian, and appointed David Gallatin Epperson's younger brother, William Lambert, to be administrator and guardian. The boy, Charles Gallatin, was living in Macon County, Missouri, about the time of the outbreak of the Civil War. He has a few descendants now in Salt Lake City.
- iii) Sarah, b. 1807; md. William Stewart Patterson in Adair County, 1825. He became a captain in the engineers in Civil War and was persecuted by Kentucky neighbors after the war. We have an almost complete record of descendants, above average for education.
b. 1809
- iv) Elizabeth Ann md. James G. Patterson, brother of William S., in 1828. He d. before 1857; 3 children who married. Some descendants now living in Adair County and elsewhere.
- v) William Lambert, b. some time after 1810 census; md. Charlotte Bradshaw in Adair, 1838. Became ordained preacher; had 4 children who married and had families; many descendants now living in Adair and other nearby counties; high average of education. He, his older

brother Albert and his younger brother Charles Francis, all died in 1863.

vi) Smith Montgomery: dates unknown; became estranged from family, went to Tennessee, died before age of 30, unmarried.

vii) Charles Francis, b. 1817; md. Patsy Ann Carter, 1856. She was a grand-daughter of Charles and Dianah Lambert Carter. They had 3 children, two of whom lived to marry. Descendants now living in Casey County and elsewhere.

viii) Mary, b. 1821; md. John McDougall; 4 children; several descendants living in or near Chicago forty years ago.

ix) John Jefferson, b. 1823, d. 1905; md. in 1842 Elizabeth Hurt Morris.

((Was she a relative of the Elizabeth Morris who md. Wesley Redman ?))
had 7 children, most of whom md. and remained in Adair County. Oldest son d. in 1862, a Union soldier. Several descendants now living in Columbia, Adair County.

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Family of David Epperson

(Material on David is very meager, and cost great effort.)

David md. Cassandra Waters, daughter of Anderson Waters, in Lincoln County in 1805. He was taxed for 200 acres of "3d rate" land on Knob Lick in Lincoln County from 1804; this land was in Casey County after 1807; tax continues until 1820. In 1820 census he was listed in Lincoln, with two sons and wife. In 1817 he and his wife, with three of her brothers and two sisters (married) sold land in Lincoln that had belonged to her father. In 1825 a David Epperson md. Sallie Elliott in Lincoln; this was probably our David, though we cannot be sure - and everything connected with him seems to be complicated in the records. Thus far we do not know when he died; but in January, 1833, when the other heirs of John Epperson joined in selling land, William Epperson ~~was~~ had power of attorney for the heirs of David, deceased.

Those two heirs were David Jr. and Anderson. David Jr. was b. some time before 1810, Anderson about 1813. They married sisters, Nancy and Artie Comer. They lived in Pulaski County in 1850, and probably had lived there for twenty years or so. David Jr. died in 1876, in Pulaski County. There are several discrepancies between various documents, ~~xxx~~ and between these documents and the statements of living descendants; but it seems safe to say that David and his wife had 9 children, b. between 1828 and 1850; that most of these married and begat, and that at least two sons, John and David (whom we'll call David the III) left several descendants who still live in Pulaski County. This David the III, son of David Jr., son of David, son of John, died in Somerset, Pulaski County, in 1924. They say he was a "great hand" for reciting family traditions; even so, he lost one ancestral David in giving his version of ~~xxx~~ his descent from John Epperson (1745-1817.)

Epperson

Anderson Waters is listed in the 1830 census with six children, born between 1837 and 1850. There are but meager records of him after 1850, and no certain facts about his children. To complicate matters, there are at least two other Epperson families on record in Pulaski County, one that apparently came from Tennessee. The local descendants of David have very meager data and are not very communicative. (This last sentence is quite an understatement.)

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The Family of Jesse Epperson

Jesse (1790-1871) did a turn in the War of 1812; his pension record might give details as to his service. In 1813 he married Peggy (Margaret) Sloane in Lincoln County. She d. about 1829, having borne 8 children - or so the 1830 census indicates. In 1832 he married Nancy Pemberton; we are fairly sure, short of absolute proof, that she was a daughter of Thomas Pemberton, who bought something at the sale of John Epperson's goods in 1817. She bore four children to Jesse, and though the records are none too plentiful it is fairly sure that she outlived him.

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p. 15a*

The Family of Archibald Northcutt and wife, Sally Epperson

Northcutt's forename is given as Archibald in his marriage record in Lincoln County (1805); also in the index to the probate record in Casey County; but in his will he signs himself Archer. He drew his will in January, 1841, wrote a worried codicil in November that year, and the will was entered for probate Dec. 11, 1843. One of the witnesses was our great-uncle Christopher P. Coffey.

Archibald - or Archer - Northcutt had done "right well" in accumulating property. He left his wife a brick dwelling house and an unspecified but apparently plentiful amount of land. It comes out that Sally's father, John Epperson, had given Archer Northcutt a Negro slave woman, Phillis, (probably in 1805 when Archer and Sally were married.) Archer doesn't speak of this slave as a gift to him and his wife jointly; no sir, John Epperson had given the wench ~~to him~~ to him. Phillis had died before 1841, having done her expected duty of bearing a number of slave children; and now Archer gives his wife all these children of Phillis.

He is worried for fear his only child, William L., won't marry and have children. William is enjoined to stay at home with his mother, yet the father hopes he will marry. In case William dies without children, the property is to go to Archer's four sisters (not named); and if the sisters fail to claim the inheritance, the estate is to go to his wife Sally's four brothers. But we had no luck.

One queer item: "I will and bequeath to my son, William L. Northcutt, the salt well bored by myself on my land."

We have not followed up Casey County records, to find when Sally Epperson Northcutt died, or whether bashful son William L. ever married and bore children.

In the spring or early summer of 1839 Jesse and a part of his family moved to Saline County, Missouri. Jesse his wife and younger children, his third son, Pembroke, and probably two more of his older children moved with him. Pembroke had married Zilphia McCormack in 1838; their first child was born soon after they reached Missouri. Jesse and his tribe settled at or near the village of Cambridge, on the west bank of the Missouri. Saline County corners on Johnson, and Charles the Wheelwright's oldest son, John, lived in Johnson County, probably before his uncle Jesse moved to Saline.

Here is an incomplete list of his children, reconstructed from census and family records. Evidently some of the children by the first marriage died young, or at least missed the records:-

- i) William L., b. abt. 1814; md. Rebecca Crum in Lincoln County, Kentucky, 1839; is believed to have stayed in Lincoln County; there were Eppersons in that county until a few years ago.
- ii) John L; b. 1815; md. Elizabeth - - -; moved to Saline County, Missouri in 1848; had 6 children in 1850 census; blacksmith, living near his father; no further record, and the modern generation in Saline County never heard of him.
- iii) Pembroke S; b. 1817; md. (1) Zilpha McCormack in Lincoln County in 1838; moved to Saline County with his father; his wife d. in 1852, 6 children; he md. (2) Polly Ann Hartgrave in 1853; 6 children. Some of these 12 children d. young, but he left a host of descendants. His oldest son, Jesse Jr., served (Union) in Civil War; Pembroke himself had long feud with rebel bushwhackers. We feel a partiality toward Pembroke because when he d. in 1893 he specified in his will that ~~xxxxxxx~~ one of his sons should take good care of his old buggy horse "Morgan". Pembroke's grand-children who have written us are plain people, not rich but very kind-hearted.

- iv) David, b. abt. 1819; was living in his father's household in the 1850 census, presumably unmarried. No further record.
- v) Elizabeth, b. in the 1820's; md. George Jackson in Saline County; had 12 children; record missing.
- x x x according to the census of 1830, there were three other small children in Jesse's family who do not appear in the records of 1850.

Children by his second marriage:-

- vi) Thomas F., b. 1833; md. in Missouri; d. in the 1860's; had 2 children.
- vii) George Newton (1815-1924); served (Union) in the Civil War; md. twice; many descendants in Missouri and Oklahoma and Kansas. Two of his children still living, believed to be the last living grandchildren of Jesse.
- viii) Sarah, b. 1837; md. Hatfield; several descendants.
- ix) Frank, b. 1841; has descendants in Carroll County, Mo. and elsewhere.

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Here is the place for a short sermon on the pity of losing touch with kindred. Jesse's descendants (those we have contacted) are nice people, most of them rather poor; only one knew the first name of his great-grandfather, Jesse, and only one knew that Jesse was buried in Saline County. A few of them knew their branch of the family came from Kentucky; but no one had anything like a general record of three generations.

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A little more information has come regarding George L. Epperson, youngest son of John and Elizabeth (Lambert) Epperson. He is listed in the 1830 census of Simpson County, Kentucky, with a wife, one son under 10, a daughter between 15 and 20, and two small girls. Remember, not until 1850 did any census give the names of any but the head of the family, or the year and place of birth of each member; and so, all we know is, there was a wife with four children in these age brackets. The family does not appear again in Simpson County census records. They moved away - somewhere.

Charles Epperson the Wheelwright

Charles is not on record as having owned any land in Lincoln County; he was taxed from 1801 through 1807 - we might say, merely for existing. On July 13, 1807, he married Sarah Harris - the fifth child of Dr. George andx Harris and his wife Sarah, who had come from Virginia (probably Goochland or Fluvanna County) and settled in Lincoln County by 1799. The Wheelwright's business affairs were much tied up with the Harrises. In 1805 he and William Hudson Harris, brother of the girl he was to marry, were partners in a land speculation, buying from some earlier entrant his re-per-right to 350 acres near Dripping Spring in Warren County. Warren was a huge area then, due to be cut up into several counties, and Dripping Spring lay in what was to become Edmonson County. The land in question is not far from the Mammoth Cave. xix The young partners had the land surveyed in March, 1806. We have no evidence that either of them ever lived on the land. But a still earlier venture of Dr. George Harris affected Charles Epperson's fortunes very definitely. Back in 1799 Dr. Harris had "entered" 200 acres on Drake's Creek in Warren County; and by 1808 Charles Epperson and his wife and first baby, to ether with several of the Harrises, moved to Warren County and settled along Drake's Creek - in the district southeast of Bowling Green and near the modern Allen County line.

southeast

Follow state highway 71 from Bowling Green - the road to Scottsville. About ten miles out, just beyond Alvaton (which is in reverse but is not a remedy) you will see Friendship Church off to the right. (Sam Vontress, who gave Father Epperson the ram's head cane, is buried at Friendship.) Follow the tight-fitting lane past the church into the deep woods; soon you will be altogether lost, with the comfort of knowing you are near the place where Trammel Creek flows into Drake's; and xxxx on the bank of Drake's Creek, near where Trammel flows into it, is a spot which the neighbors still call Epperson's Mill - though of course the mill disappeared long ago. And for added comfort, remember that near the mill-site good old Simon Williams, our great-great-

grandfather, lived from around 1803 until after 1812. We do not know how well acquainted Charles Epperson was with Simon Williams; we know they lived within a few miles of each other for five years. Also, in the same neighborhood along Trammel Creek, James Martin was neighbor to Simon Williams from 1803 until some time in 1808; and William Mangrum Sr. also lived there through 1806-1807 and some way into 1808. Now it is exciting to think of three ancestors - Simon Williams, James Martin, and William Mangrum Sr. - all swapping help and singing in the same prayer-meeting - which they almost certainly did; and we might imagine all three families coming to the door and watching this new man Epperson moving in, and the men advising him how to get around that worst spot in the road, and the women offering to spare a starting of yeast. But it all depends upon ~~when~~ just what time of the year 1808 Charles Epperson moved in and also just when Martin and Mangrum moved out. We have no clue as to just when James Martin left Warren County; the Baptist History indicates that he was active in the district south of Vincennes by "about" 1808; he may have come north some time that summer. We can be more definite about when William Mangrum Sr. moved; for it is almost certain that he and his son-in-law, Cary Wilkinson, moved together from Warren County to the region that became Gibson; and Cary Wilkinson's oldest son definitely remembered that his family arrived in Indiana in the fall of 1808. Did Epperson know the others? It could very well have been, and there is a strong probability that he did. Long years after, in 1839, when he moved to Gibson, Martin and Simon Williams and William Mangrum Sr. had long gone to their rest; William Mangrum Jr., a boy of 16 when Epperson moved to Warren County, was nearly fifty when the wheelwright caught up with him in Indiana. One thing sure: the three families and maybe the fourth probably knew each other along Trammel and Drake's Creeks, but they could not know what is to us a Very Important Thing; namely, that they were all going to become our ancestors!

The wheelwright appears to have got on very well for the first

twelve or fifteen years in Warren County. His name figures often in the court order book as road-viewer or as appraiser of estates, and in October, 1812, he was recommended to the governor for appointment as justice of the peace - but he had the usual Epperson luck in politics. We do not know just when he and Dr. George Harris built the mill on Drake's Creek. At first it was a grist-mill, later also a saw-mill. In 1815 he was taxed for the 350 acre tract near Dripping Spring and for two parcels amounting to 21½ acres on Drake's Creek - one of these being the mill site. On October 4, 1822, Dr. Harris sold his share of the mill to Epperson. Dr. Harris died in the spring of 1824; a long-drawn-out disagreement and lawsuit between the Wheelwright and his Harris brothers-in-law followed. The Wheelwright's business affairs appear sound enough up to this time, and in March, 1824, he bought an additional 100 acres of land for \$1100. But the heavy blow fell two years later: his wife Sarah died in the spring of 1826. Her last child, Charles (father of Isaac Epperson) was b. on March 18, 1826. The mother may have died in child-birth; if not then, soon after.

These are the seven children of Charles and Sarah (Harris) Epperson:-

John, b. 1808-1809
William H., b. 1812
Albert, b. 1814
Sam V., b. 1816
Elizabeth Ann
Sally, b. 1821
Charles, b. 1826.

We will tell you more about them later. But now a word about the Harris family.

George Harris came from Virginia, almost certainly from one of the counties that lie in a triangle pointed by Hanover, Albemarle and Amherst counties; there is good evidence that he lived in or near either Goochland or Fluvanna for a time. We estimate that he was born about 1715. He first appears on the tax roll of Lincoln County, Kentucky, in 1799, though he may have come to Kentucky earlier. We suppose Sarah was his fifth child; he names her fifth in ~~xxx~~ his will; and if she was in her early twenties when she married (1807) we estimate that George Harris's eight children were born

between about 1780 and the middle 1790's. Thus far, the marriage date of Sarah Harris to Charles Epperson is the only date we have found for this lost family record, excepting the date of George Harris's death. The fact that George Harris was a doctor comes out in the probate lawsuit. He may not have studied medicine in a college, but merely have read and been coached by an older doctor, as the custom was.

Dr. George Harris drew his will on October 4, 1822, and it was entered for probate on May 3, 1824. His wife was Sarah; her maiden surname may have been Graves, but thus far we cannot identify her parents. She survived her husband two years, her own estate being entered for probate on July 3, 1826. This fragment is a poor respect to pay to her and to her daughter Sarah, but it is the best we can do. Here are the 8 children of George and Sarah Harris:-

✓ 1) Graves Harris was taxed in Lincoln County in 1807; we feel sure this date does not indicate his coming of age, but rather that he came to the county seven or eight years after his father. He md. ✓ Elizabeth Wheeler, daughter of Mark and Frances Wheeler, of Fluvanna County, Virginia (date unknown.) He moved ~~to~~ from Lincoln County, Kentucky, to Warren. He was, with his two brothers, appointed executors of their father's will, and Graves qualified, but for some reason his youngest brother George Overton Harris did most of the work. On March 22, 1838, Graves and his wife sold to their nephew, Albert Epperson (our grandfather) 75 acres along Drake's Creek, - his last appearance in Warren County records. In 1842 he shows up in Johnson County, Missouri. His nephew, John Epperson, oldest son of the Wheelwright, had gone to Johnson County some years earlier. Thus far we have no later item about him.

2) William Hudson Harris was partner with the Wheelwright in the land deal near Dripping Spring in 1805-06. He was the official witness of the marriage of Charles Epperson to Sarah in 1807. His father had given him a tract of land somewhere in Virginia, "which he has had in hand and traded" -

and if the good doctor had only told in what county it lay, we'd be warmer in the search for Virginia ancestors. William Hudson was named co-executor with his brothers but for some reason did not qualify, which would indicate he was not living in or near Warren County in 1824. The will implies he was married; and his middle name "Hudson" dangles a clue to still another ancestor - but thus far no luck.

3) Elizabeth Dickson (or Dickinson) Harris md. Major Holland in Virginia. "Major" was her husband's name, not a title. His father was Hezekiah ~~xxxxx~~ Sr., of Fluvanna County. Was Elizabeth's middle name Dickson or Dickinson? Her father calls her by one name in a certain deed, by the other in his will. She and her husband were still living in Fluvanna County, Virginia, in the spring of 1811 when her father (in Kentucky) deeded to her a slave woman named Delphy - "being about the age of Twenty one years complexion very dark", and Delphy's little son, Ned, "about fifteen months of age of complexion rather bright inclining to mulatto colour." (I mustn't write what I think just here.) Major Holland and his wife moved to Kentucky by 1821; they were then living in Simpson County, just south of Warren, when they joined in selling some Virginia land. No further record.

4) Frances Harris md. Hezekiah Holland Jr., younger brother of Major. She and her husband were living in Warren County in 1821. In 1841 one of the Kentucky Hollands wrote from Christian County to a cousin in Virginia that Aunt Frances Holland was dying of cancer.

5) Sarah Harris md. Charles Apperson

6) Mary Graves Harris md. James Thomas.

7) George Overton Harris; the will implies he was still single when the will was drawn and that he lived at home. The will gave him all the home plantation except a part reserved to his mother; and when his mother died (1826) he was sole executor of her estate. He was an ordained Baptist minister by 1838. He d. in Warren County in 1853.

8) Lucy Overton ~~xxxx~~ Harris md. (1) a Johnston; (2) Richard Herritt.

Dr. George Harris was a rather wealthy man, and his will is better than a page in a history text. (We quote spelling and punctuation "as is.") "I lend to my beloved wife Sarah Harris during her natural life three negroes namely Isaac Easter and Nancy and my gray and rone mares and my Durbon." That "lending" was a legal device common in Virginia and Kentucky wills; the widow would have use of the property but the title would remain safeguarded for the other heirs. "Durbon" was the doctor's spelling of Dearborn, the fashionable four-wheel carriage of that time. "Item I lend to my beloved wife Sarah Harris during her natural life two feather beds (beds) and furniture with two cows and calves with all my household and kitchen furniture except my other feather beds which are to be sold" . . . and "a sufficiency of my stock of hogs to make her pork for one year and raise from," and "a sufficiency of corn and wheat for one year."

But like children staring at a deformity we keep staring at those slaves. Now Dr. Harris seems to have been a good and kindly man, and he definitely was a pillar in the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and was doubtless as humane as the average man of his time and place. Merely, the use of his time seems terribly cruel to us. It was his custom to lend each son of his children at marriage or soon after two slaves; and now at his death he gives what he lent long ago - those original slaves and their increase. The original slaves were not always male and female; he gave one son two Negro men, and he gave one daughter a man and a woman. But to the other daughters he gave "two Negro women and their increase." Those slave women waiting where they might, the title to their children would be vested in the owner of the mothers; and so as a future investment the gift of two slave women young enough to bear children would be valuable. In the 1820's the cotton states farther south were in the market for slaves; Virginia to a great extent, Kentucky somewhat less, were both breeding slaves for that market. Most of Dr. Harris's slaves had been "lent" to his children from ten to maybe twenty years, and we have no way of knowing how many slave children had been added to the original property.

Dr. Harris names twenty-four slaves: fourteen whom he had "lent" and ten more whom he had kept in hand. Seven slaves - Old Ben, Anthony, Ned, Saroney, Millie, Dixie and Peter - are to be sold at the discretion of the executors. Evidently they had outlived their usefulness. We have not seen the inventory, but if the 24 slaves named were valued on a par with the two slaves of John Epperson in 1817, they were worth somewhere between \$12,000 and \$16,000. And that does not include the "increase." As descendants of Sarah Harris Epperson we have a sort of property in the increase of two slave girls, Delcia and Fanny; and we wonder when and how Charles the Wheelwright disposed of them and their children. The Harris Negroes - Isaac and Esther, Sam and Delphany, Dafney and Amy, and Old Ben - are a part of a shadowy past, dead long ago. Somehow slavery does not seem pretty when it touches our own ancestors.

And now a page of unhappiness. Dr. Harris specified that those seven aged slaves and his other surplus livestock be sold, and that his daughter Sarah Epperson have twenty dollars of the money they brought, the balance to be divided equally among his seven other children; and that in due time the land he lent his wife should also be sold and the money divided among the seven, "leaving out my daughter Sarah Epperson, as I have provided for her in another way." On the day he drew his will he had sold to Charles Epperson his share of the mill for \$50.00 - surely only a fraction of its worth. If he meant to give the Eppersons his share of the mill for Sarah's dowry, a dollar would have served as well as fifty. Or maybe he had given them something else, but Charles Epperson didn't think so. After his wife's death Charles sued to break her father's will. The suit dragged on until 1830, and the will was sustained.

And who were the ancestors of George and Sarah Harris? They gave their children names that sound ancestral: Graves (twice), Hudson, Dickson (or Dickinson), and Overton (twice.) If Virginia records were only complete - but they aren't. The farther back you go, the harder to find the documents

you need; before 1750, very hard; before 1700 almost impossible. And the Harris x Overton genealogy is the hardest one we have found. Back around 1695 a certain Captain William Harris married Temperance Overton; and they had five or six sons and one daughter. (No two "authorities" seem to agree as to the identity of all six - or maybe only five - of the sons. There were other Harrises - other William Harrises - living in H_unover and Louisa Counties. Names and persons are wrongly confused. Books have been written, and still the confusion grows. We feel sure that Dr. George Harris was a great-grandson of Captain William and Temperance Overton Harris; but we cannot be sure. It seems that George Harris would hardly have given the name "Overton" to two of his children unless he had known his rightful relationship. B t thus far, we cannot prove that relationship. If he was indeed descended from Temperance Overton, then we can trace our ancestry back to Old England - away back. And if that Captain William Harris was, as many assert, a son of M_ary Claiborne Rice, why then - ah me ! the Claibornes started in Virginia in the early 1620's, and they go back to the Norman Conquest and some very eminent pirates of that time. Oh my, oh me ! Anyway, Temperance Overton must have had a charm, a spell, for her name is woven in and out of genealogy for two hundred and fifty years. If you are driving in H_unover County, hunt up the Glen C_airn cemetery, near Doswell, and lay a posey on her grave.

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In the spring of 1827 the Wheelwright's closest relatives were situated as follows: his aged mother was living in Lincoln County; his brother William thriving in Adair, with 9 children ranging from 25 years old down to 4; we do not know whether David was still living - his two sons were, perhaps in Casey or Pulaski. Sally Northcutt was in ~~Kuizakix~~ ^{Casey} and Jesse was in Lincoln County, with a large family. George L. was near by, in Warren or Simpson. And at home, the Wheelwright's seven children ranged from 19 down to one.

On April 2, 1827, he married the widow Elizabeth Redman of Adair County.

She was born in 1788, the daughter of James Andrew Smith and his wife, Margaret Truax, who had come to Kentucky from Bedford County, Virginia, in the middle 1780's. She had married Absalom Redman on July 10, 1806, in Adair County. He died in ~~November~~ ^{November} 1815 (his estate was entered for probate Nov. 29), leaving his widow with two children - Wesley, b. 1810, and Margaret, b. 1811 - and a third to come. That third one is important to us; that was Naomi Jane, who wouldn't arrive until June 8, 1816. The Smiths and the Redmans were notably clannish in those days, and both families appear to have been particularly considerate of Absalom Redman's widow and children. Absalom left some land - at least 159 acres came to his son Wesley when he came of age; and somehow the widow Elizabeth managed to keep the three children growing. We don't know how she and the Wheelwright got acquainted, but likely William Epperson had a hand in bringing them together.

In his second marriage Charles Epperson was, unaware, being destined to move ultimately to Gibson County, Indiana. Elizabeth had five Smith brothers and four sisters; by 1827 some of these had already settled in Gibson County and others, with her father, were headed in that direction. Likewise the Redmans: from around 1820 forward one and then another of Absalom Redman's brothers, and then his father, were migrating to Gibson County; until in 1839, when the Wheelwright followed them, Gibson County was populous with Smiths and Redmans and their inlaws.

Charles and Elizabeth had two sons: David Lambert, b. March 18, 1828, and James, b. Feb. 4, 1830. The Wheelwright's business affairs were not going so well. On September 7, 1826, he bought for \$500 one hundred acres in Cumberland County. On March 18, 1828, - the day little David Lambert was born - the sheriff foreclosed on the mill to cover a debt owed jointly by Charles Epperson and George Harris, and on October 26, 1829, the sheriff sold the mill. The records are incomplete, but we gather that Epperson recovered the mill in 1830.

We suppose that Elizabeth kept her three Redman children with her when

she married Charles Epperson. In 1827 Wesley would have been 17, Margaret 16, and Naomi Jane going on eleven. In 1832 when Wesley came of age his grandfather Aaron Redman in Adair County deeded 139 acres to Wesley "of Warren County" for one dollar - obviously a gift deed covering the young man's inheritance which the grandfather had safeguarded for him; and soon after, Wesley married Elizabeth Morris of Warren County and got ready to follow his Smith and Redman uncles to Gibson County. Margaret Redman went to Indiana either with her brother or very soon after; she married Jesse Emerson in Gibson County in November, 1834.

The Wheelwright's own ~~own~~ children were growing up. his son John (as reckoned by the census of 1850) had married around 1828, perhaps in some other county - there is no record of it in Warren. William H. married Ann F. Walthall in February, 1835; Albert married Naomi Jane Redman on Feb. 11, 1836; Sam V. married Rachel Casey May 18, 1836; and Elizabeth Ann married Christopher Coffey about the same time. Of these five marriages only one - that of Sam V. - appears in the marriage record index in Warren County. We know there are many gaps in Warren County records, and that in most Kentucky counties the indexes to marriage bonds and probate actions and other legal matters are faulty. For example, the will of Dr. George Harris is not listed in the probate index nor is it in the regular will books, yet it is there, in a miscellaneous collection apparently overlooked by the indexer. Or some of these marriages may have taken place in other counties.

The most important to us, of course, was that of Albert Epperson and Naomi Jane Redman. They were 22 and 20; Albert solid and somewhat reserved, given sometimes to spells of brooding, with something in his mind and hands that led him to make beautiful things of native wood. Naomi Jane's eyes could hardly have been brighter when she was a bride than they appear in a picture taken when she and Albert were old. Of course that matter of step-brother marryin' step-sister (no blood relationship) brought about no end of puzzling complications. Charles the Wheelwright married (second)

a daughter of James Andrew Smith; three of the Wheelwright's sons - Albert, Charles, and David Lambert - married grand-daughters of James Andrew Smith. Cousinships became complicated.

Albert and Naomi Jane's first boy, Patrick Henry came promptly in November 1836, and Uriah Chesterfield in 1838. (Where did they get that Chesterfield ?) It seems they planned to stay on in Warren, for in March, 1838, Albert bought from his Uncle Graves Harris 75 acres along Drake's Creek for \$425. But the next year something induced Albert and his father to move to Indiana - a hope of better fortunes, a desire to get away from slavery, the appeal of a fresh start; but most of all I dare say their wives wanted to be near their own kinfolk. At least four of Elizabeth's brothers - James, Andrew, Isaac and David Smith - and at least three of her sisters were already located in Gibson, and her aged father died in Gibson in 1839.⁷ Three of her Redman brothers-in-law and their father, Aaron Redman, had likewise settled in Gibson; her son Wesley and her daughter Margaret were there.

At this point we can dispense with court-house records; for some of Naomi's grandchildren remember her telling about that great adventure, and Father Epperson had the story by heart. They moved in December, 1839, "in a wagon drawn by four horses; they used a single line on the lead horse. They were seventeen days on the ~~xxx~~ route. Beside the four horses at the wagon they had at least one saddle horse and maybe more, for Naomi Jane loved to remember that she rode horse-back, with her baby (Uriah Chesterfield) in her arms, and - if we know small boys - Patrick Henry took spells of riding behind her, holding on tight while he stared at the hugeness of the world - woods and rivers and all. As we count noses, this was the roll-call:-

Charles the Wheelwright, age 62
Elizabeth, his wife age 51
Sally - age 18
Charles 15
David Lambert 11
James 9

Albert 25
Naomi Jane 23
Patrick Henry 3
Uriah 1

Where did they ferry the Ohio ? Back around 1820 almost all the migrating families coming from Kentucky to our part of Indiana ferried at "Red Banks", the site which later became Henderson. But by 1839 Evansville was getting to be a town. One item Father Epperson never failed to quote: the party got here on December 20 - though no one now seems to know just where "here" was. Did they "light off" and bed down at Wesley Redman's, or maybe at Margaret Redman Emerson's. Or both of those couples being young and presumably having only small cabins, our party may have stayed at one or another of the Smith and Redman homes. Plenty of relatives. It was not until 1842 that Albert Epperson bought land; and it appears that the Wheelwright never owned land in Indiana. He had been a strong man in his time, not as prosperous and as his brother William; now he was old, and business affairs had gone rather badly. He had come a long way from the bright slopes of Blue Ridge; and to an old man this new frontier may have seemed strange. His youngest daughter, Sally Ann, died in December, 1842. He himself died on Christmas Day, 1844. His widow, Elizabeth, was living with Albert and Naomi Jane Epperson in the 1850 census. In her last years she lived with her other daughter, Margaret Emerson. She died in 1869.

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Here now are brief sketches of the families of the Wheelwright's children.

Family of John Epperson (1809-186-)

John was in ~~xxxx~~ or near Warren County, Ky., in 1829, when he made a deposition in the lawsuit his father was carrying on against the Harris brothers. At the time of the 1830 census he was living in Simpson County, married (his wife not yet 20) with two infant sons. In 1850 and 1860 the census lists him in Johnson County, Missouri; and if the census is accurate regarding the birth-places of his children, he must have moved to Missouri soon after 1830

moved to Missouri soon after 1830, for all his children except the oldest son are listed as born in Missouri. However, census records are not too dependable regarding the place of birth. John's uncle Graves Harris sold his Warren County land to our grandpa Albert Epperson in 1838, and moved to Johnson County, Missouri.

In the 1850 census gives John's wife as Catherine, b. 1810, a native of Kentucky, and 8 children: William P. (22); Hugh (20); Charles (15); Sara A. (17); Ellen (13); Susan (8); Elizabeth (3); and Samuel, 4 months. By 1860 Catherine had died and John had married Elizabeth somebody, (42), said to be a native of Kentucky. Only three of his children are at home - Charles, Elizabeth and Samuel. Father Epperson said that either John or one of his sons was killed by bushwhackers during the Civil War. It was John himself; his meager estate was entered for probate in Johnson County, in March, 1865. His death may have occurred quite some time earlier, and the probate business may have been put off on account of war conditions. In the probate records, sons William and Hugh, and daughter Sarah A., were living in Johnson County; and sons Samuel and Charles were living in Pettis County (adjoining Johnson). A daughter Helen Runner was mentioned as living in Illinois. (Presumably she was the one listed as Ellen in the 1850 census.) The Johnson County Clerk reports that George H. Epperson, of Leeton (Johnson County), is a descendant of this branch. (He does not answer letters, so he must be.)

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Family of William H. Epperson (1812-1872)

William H. Epperson, 2d son of Charles and Sarah Harris Epperson, b. Jan. 25, 1812; d. May 29, 1872.

Mary Ann Frances Walthall, b. Sept 8th, 1813; d. Feb. 15, 1902. They were married in February, 1835. Mary Ann was b. at Raleigh, N. Car; dau. of William and Mary (Russell) Walthall. Her father died when she was young; her mother m. Absalom Clayton

her mother md. Absalom Clayton and moved to Kentucky, and later to Indiana. Mary Ann had two brothers and one sister. We do not know where "Aunt Ann" and great-uncle William met and courted and married. They were living in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, in 1842; and they moved to Gibson County about 1847. They lived at Ft. Branch. William H. was a carpenter and builder. Their 11 children:

i) Charles Henry, d. in infancy

ii) Mary, b. Feb. 27, 1837; md. Zachary Stephens, a minister; she d. in Rogers, Arkansas, Feb. 14, 1902, the day before her mother died. She had several children, but we have been unable to find any of them or to get any record.

iii) Sarah Jane, b. 1838; md. . . . Miller; had one son. She died young, her husband remarried and lived in Mount City, Ill. Her son's name was John. We have no further record.

iv) Nancy Henry, d. in infancy.

v) Octavia, b. June 20, 1842; d. August 25, 1920 at Evansville. She md. Charles E. Woods, July 24, 1866, in Gibson County; lived in Henderson and later in Evansville; had 7 children. Two died in infancy. The five who lived to maturity: William Richard (1867-1918), never md.; George Edward (1870-1897); Rose Alice (b. 1871); Ella Branson (1873-1947); and Ann Skinner. Rose Alice and Ann live in New York City.

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vi) William M., b. 1844; enlisted Co. G., 58th Indiana Infantry; d. at Corinth, Mississippi, May 10, 1862

vii) Christopher (1846-1858)

viii) Letitia, b. 1848; Md. John Blessing, 1867; their children:-

George; John and Herbert live in Cleveland; Ronald and Charles lived in Indianapolis; Milton lived in Ft. Branch; Octavia md. . . . Corn of Cleveland, no children; Margaret md. Horese Genung, moved to Chicago; Agnes md. Sam West of Ft. Branch.

ix) Betty, b. 1850; md. Nicholas Biel, 1874; d. 1889

x) Margaret Ann (1853-1858)

David

xi) James (1856-1945) lived in Chicago; md. Kathryn White; 9 children, all living (as of Feb. 15, 1950):-

Mary M., unmd.

Elizabeth md. Capt. A. L. Maher, U. S. N.; no children

Florence J. md. C. F. Speth; one dau.

Helen, md. J. J. Patterson; 2 daus.

Rose O., md. D. Berkmeier; 2 sons

James M. md. Mae E. Brown; 1 son

Robert Wm. md. Ann Murphy; no children

Jane md. John A. Schwab; no children

Virginia md. Frank Moran;
3 children

Uncle William, Aunt Ann, and three of their children are buried at Mt. Moriah, but Aunt Ann's grave is unmarked. She died while on a visit with her daughter, Mary Stephens, at Rogers, Arkansas; and the daughter died a day before the mother. Aunt Ann was a tiny lady, still remembered for her beautiful needle-work.

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Albert Epperson and his family will have a short chapter farther on.

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The Family of Sam V. Epperson (1816-1873)

One group of his grandchildren say that his middle initial "V" was for Vernon; others say it was for Vontress. He md. (1) Rachel Casey (1818-1862) in Warren County, Kentucky, in 1833; had 13 children. He md. (2) Polly Ray, (no children). Of his 13 children, three - Harry, Tillitha, and Abner - died in infancy; three - Samuel, James and Charles - died in adolescence. Two daughters, Mary and Martha, in their 20's, died with their father and mother in a cholera epidemic in the summer of 1873. Five more children lived to marry:-

- i) John Willia (1838-1912) md. and had 7 children; 4 living.
- ii) William Wiggs (1843-1904) md.; had 5 children, 3 now living - some of them in Ft. Worth, Texas.
- iii) Edward Hughes (1854-1934) md. Samantha V. Glasscock (1857-1900); 12 children; 4 died young; 4 md.; two now living in Dallas, Texas.

The name of Edward Hughes has some connection with the enigma of Sam Vontress, who gave Father Epperson the famous ~~xxx~~ ram's-head cane. Sam Vontress Sr. md. Maria Hughes, daughter of Edward Hughes; and it was the son of Sam Vontress Sr. and Maria who gave the cane. We cannot figure out any possible relationship between the Vontress family and the Eppersons; but here is Sam V. Epperson in 1854 naming a son Edward Hughes. When we get around to telling the story of the ram's head cane we hope to know more but are afraid we won't.

- iv) Benjamin Covington (1856-1934) md. and had 5 children, 4 living. Two daughters, Mrs. Mary Buchanan and Mrs. Audrey Buchanan, live within a

few miles of the site of Charles the Wheelwright's mill.

v) Sarah Elizabeth Epperson (1856-1934) md. but childless.

She visited in Gibson County several times within the memory of our generation. Her oldest brother, John Willis, was working as a farm hand for Albert Epperson in the 1860 census. Around the middle 1870's Edward H. came north and worked for Father (David A.) for a season; but Sarah Elizabeth visited her Gibson County cousins more than all the others. These visits kept alive in Father Epperson's mind many facts about Warren County. It was probably through his Kentucky cousins that he had the remote tradition that John Epperson of Johnson County, Missouri, was killed during the Civil War.

Family of Christopher R. Coffey

According to the 1850 census, Elizabeth Ann Epperson, daughter of Charles the Wheelwright, was born about 1816, but that would bring her too near her brother Sam. Census figures are often wrong about ages; probably she was born next after Sam, say around 1818. About 1836 she married Christopher R. Coffey, of Casey County. He was born about 1806, fifth of the ten children of Colonel Jesse Coffey and his wife, Tibitha Riffe, who were early settlers of Casey County. Christopher R. Coffey and Elizabeth Ann were living in Casey County at the time of the 1850 census; he was a tanner and was quite well-to-do at that time - and apparently did even better as the years went by. At some time before 1865 they moved to Owensboro, Kentucky, and lived there the rest of their lives. Aunt Elizabeth Ann was living in October, 1877, but died before November, 1881. Christopher died late in 1890; his will was entered for probate on Dec. 15. He and Aunt Elizabeth Ann had six daughters and one son, but none of the daughters survived their father.

1) Sarah, b. about 1837; md. David W. Vandever in Casey County in ~~1857~~ 1855; she died the next year, childless.

11) Mary E., b. about 1840

- iii) Isabel, b. 1841 Either Isabel or Mary md. John Whipp, of Liberty, Casey County. We do not know which of the two married him, nor what became of the other sister. Apparently the marriage was childless. In his will Christopher Coffey gave John Whipp a free use for life of a store building in Liberty, identifying Whipp as his son-in-law, and saying that the life-tenure of the store was to repay Whipp for past services. But no mention is made of any grand-children; and it is clear that both Mary and Isabel had died before their father made his will.
- iv) Ann, b. 1844; md. James Kennedy in Owensboro late in 1865; she d. before 1880, leaving two children, Christopher and Belle.
- v) Florence, b. 1845; md. Leozio ~~lux~~ Lumpkin in Owensboro, 1866. She d. before 1880, leaving a daughter, Mary. Beside her share of her grandfather's estate, Mary had already been given her grandparents' piano, and was not to be charged anything for it.
- vi) George Welby Coffey, b. 1848; was executor of his father's estate, and received liberal bequests. He md. and had two daughters and a son - their forenames unknown. His wife's initials, as shown by a certain bond, were N. E., and she and George Welby were married before Oct. 17, 1877; but that is all we know about her. We are told that George and his family moved to Orlando, Florida, long ago.
- vii) Alice, b. 1852; md. W. T. Ellis in Owensboro in 1871; died before 1880; left a daughter, Betty.

Christopher Coffey was generous to the four children of his deceased daughters; he did not mention in his will the children of his son George Welby, but obviously George was very well-to-do and could provide for his own children. There was some visiting back and forth between the Coffeys and the families of William H. and Albert Epperson.

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Sarah (Sally) Ann Epperson was eighteen when her father, the Wheelwright, moved to Indiana. Two years later she married Spier Spencer Mangrum, third son and fifth child of William Jr. and Mary Catherine (Douglas) Mangrum. Sally died December 17, 1842, soon after the birth of her son, Charles William Mangrum. She was the first of many Eppersons to be buried at Mt. Moriah. Her son, Charles William (1842-1916) was md. twice; had a son Arthur and two daughters by his first marriage. Arthur lived in San Francisco; md. but childless; d. about 1932. By his second marriage, Charles William Mangrum had ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ two sons, William and Spencer,

both reported to have lived (and perhaps still to be living) on the Pacific Coast. One of them - we don't know which - is either the father or the grandfather of Lloyd Mangrum, the current golfing champion, who doesnot know the score at all.

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The Family of Charles Epperson (1826-1894), youngest child of the first marriage of Charles the Wheelwright.

Charles was living in the home of his brother Albert when the 1850 census was taken; on October 22, that year, he married Naomi Jane Smith, daughter of Isaac and Susan (Martin) Smith. Isaac Smith (1799-1858) was next to the youngest child of James Andrew and Margaret Truax Smith, and therefore a younger brother of Elizabeth, second wife of Charles the Wheelwright. Trace the inheritance of a forename. Isaac Smith got his name Isaac from Isaac Truax, his uncle in Adair County, Ky. And when Isaac Smith's daughter marries Charles Epperson, she names one of her sons Isaac.

Also, consider this matrimonial puzzle. Charles Epperson the Wheelwright md. for his second wife a daughter of Revolutionary James Andrew Smith and his wife, Margaret Truax. In due time, three sons of the Wheelwright - ~~xxxxxx~~ Albert, Charles, and David Lambert - md. grand-daughters of James Andrew Smith and Margaret. For example, Naomi Jane Redman md., Albert Epperson; Naomi Jane Smith md. Charles Epperson. These two Naomi Janes were sisters-in-law through their husbands; also they were first cousins on the Smith side. But now Susan Jane Smith, daughter of Andrew and Asenith Stone Smith, and being a first-cousin of the two Naomi Janes, married David Lambert Epperson (her first-cousin), half-brother of the husbands of her two first-cousins. Will you please take it from there?

Charles and Naomi Jane Epperson had 8 children:-

- 1) Susan Mary (1851-1917) unmarried

ii) Albert H. (1854-1868)

iii) William A. (1856-1898) md. Ester A. Wallace, Dec. 24, 1879; had four children: Margaret (b. 1882); Mabel, 1884-1900; Rose, md. Charles Jackson in 1907; and Joseph, (1891-1892). On the little boy's gravestone is carved the line: "How many hopes lie buried here."

iv) Belle (1859-1889) unmarried

v) Isaac ; md. Laura A. Brumfield, Oct. 22, 1905; three children: Earl, Charles, and Thelma. Isaac was especially endeared to David Alexander Epperson's family: modest, shy, tender-hearted, lovable.

vi) Florence (1867-1873)

vii) Annie md. Alexander Walker, 1899

viii) James Lincoln (1876-1878)

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Family of David Lambert Epperson

David Lambert (1828-1917) first child of Charles the Wheelwright and Elizabeth; md. on March 22, 1853, his cousin, Susan Jane Smith, daughter of Andrew and Asenith (Stone) Smith. (Asenith's forename gets badly twisted by record clerks and by stone-cutters). Her father was Manosh Stone of Adair County, Ky. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~; before migrating from Adair County to Indiana, Aaron Redman sold land to this Manosh Stone. Susan Jane Smith was b. in 1828; d. in 1914. David Lambert and Susan and their children moved from Gibson County, Indiana, to White County, Illinois, in 1875; and into Mt. Carmel in 1887. There he ran a dairy farm. He was a tall man, with a suggestion of Lincoln in his face and build, and one of the kindest men in the world. He outlived the other sons and daughters of the Wheelwright, and seemed to our generation a noble land-mark out of the past.

He and Susan Jane had 8 children:-

i) Mary C. (1853-1894) md. Monroe Newby; 9 children

ii) Sarah A. (1857-1916) md. Wm. H. Wheeler; 4 children - 2 living

iii) Emma L. (1859-1938) md. (1) Elieha L. Linder; (2) A. J. South; 5 daughters.

iv) Almerinda, b. 1861; md. Newton J. Poombs; 4 children

- v) Martha B., (1863-1945) md. Charles M. Toombs; no children
- vi) Charles A. (1865-1875)
- vii) Louisa J., b. 1868; md. Sherman Simpson; 6 children
- viii) Myrtle A., b. 1871; md. Edward H. McQuaid; 5 children

Charles the Wheelwright was born in 1777; and here are grand-daughters of his still living in 1950 - three generations with a span of 173 years. That is not common.

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Family of James S. Epperson (1830-1904)

After his father's death in 1844 he lived for a time with his uncle Peynter Marvel, who had been appointed his guardian. Incidentally the old county history makes two mistakes in the sketch of James S. Epperson. It states that his father was born in 1772, when in fact it was 1777; and that his father was born in Westmoreland County, Va., when it was really Albemarle. Those details were outside of Captain Epperson's own observation. He was likely to be severely accurate within the scope of his own memory.

(1831-1861)

In 1853 he married Caroline Boren. She was a younger sister of Eunice, who md. Uncle Trefton Mangrum; and they were daughters of John Boren (1796-1876) and his wife Polly McGrery (1797-1876); and this Polly McGrery was an older sister of the Abner Harrison McGrery who married Narcissa Ann Mangrum; likewise an older sister of Minerva McGrery who married Alcephus Mangrum. Also, Caroline and Eunice Boren were sisters of Samuel Hampson Boren, whose daughter Mary married our Uncle Patrick Epperson, and whose daughter Martha married Uncle Rudy Bixler. Now you have it all straight in mind - we hope!

Dying in 1861, Caroline left great-uncle James with one little daughter, Alice, who later married Robert Harriott. In 1865 James Epperson md. Esther E. Mauck (1840-1873). She bore him two children,

Etta (who married Dr. Shoptaugh), and Clarence, who never married. In 1880 Captain Epperson married Mrs. Ellen Shannon Skinner, who survived him. From 1878 on for many years he was clerk of the Gibson County circuit court, and was later a hardware merchant in Princeton.

But all this fails to tell the grand thing about him. In the summer of 1862 when they were organizing a new regiment - the 80th Indiana Infantry - he enlisted in Company F. Now it was the usage in those volunteer regiments for the men to elect their own officers, and Company F elected James Epperson first lieutenant. Almost all the men in that company came from Cynthiana, Haubstadt, and Owensville and the country between those points. They were armed at Indianapolis on September 8, and only a month later, to the very day, they were thrown into a tough battle at Ferrysville, Kentucky, and lost heavily. After that action, Epperson was made adjutant. The 80th served in Kentucky and Tennessee until after Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge, and in the spring of 1864 it marched under Sherman toward Atlanta. At Resaca, Georgia, on May 14, the 80th had its toughest fight; Company F lost half its members, killed and wounded, including its captain, Russell J. Showers. Great-uncle James Epperson was then promoted captain. The regiment did not march with Sherman to the sea, but was among those sent back to serve under Thomas around Nashville; and ended its service in North Carolina in 1865. Notice on how many gravestones in the home neighborhood you see the detail that the men buried there was a member of Company F. Related in so many directions as we are, it would take nice calculation to count the number of our relatives in that company. On pp. 67-68 I have typed some of those names. There is a bundle of letters written by Captain Epperson to home folks; those letters should be in the State Library. He was much concerned for his men, deeply serious, very much a man.

Aaron Redman and his Descendants

Aaron Redman (1760-1840) was born in Loudoun County, Virginia; was a private in Captain Porterfield's company, the 11th Virginia Regiment, for three years beginning in 1776. The D A R account says that he married Nancy Ann Craig in 1784, presumably in Loudoun County, and had 14 children. We believe they were married nearer 1780; and though we do not dispute the reported number of fourteen children (that number being not at all uncommon when folks lived on venison and corn pone), we wonder where the D A R got that figure, for the committee that reported that figure could name only two of the fourteen.

We have sound evidence regarding the age of Nancy Ann Craig Redman; she lived until 1851, and in the 1850 census (ten years after Aaron died) she gave her age as 90. For good measure, we have a copy of her will, drawn and probated right there in Gibson County; among the dozens of her grand-children she had one favorite, another Aaron, and she shamelessly fudged and gave him a hundred dollars. Nancy Ann was a spirited old thing. We cannot trace her ancestry farther back than Loudoun County, Virginia, but we think it likely that her family was one of the Craig families that flowed down from southeastern Pennsylvania into northern Virginia about 1750. Most of them were staunch Presbyterians.

Aaron and Nancy Ann were married x in or not long after 1780, and moved to Adair County, Kentucky, some time before 1800. We do not know the exact date. Here most of their sons and daughters married; and beginning in 1819, first one son and then another moved to Gibson County, Indiana - not all at one time. Aaron and Nancy Ann themselves moved to Gibson about 1834. We have not been able to find all of the reported ~~thx~~ fourteen children, but here is a tentative list, subject to correction. We can give you only meager and tentative lists of both Smiths and Redmans - records dug out with much help and plenty of effort. Incomplete as these lists are, they represent something we have saved from total loss.

The children of Aaron and Nancy Ann Redmans:-

1) ? ? Was there an Aaron Jr.? In two deeds granted in Adair County in 1832 and 1833 the grantors are Aaron and his wife Agnes. Now Aaron the Revolutionary soldier was married but once, and his wife definitely was Nancy Ann. Is the Agnes of the two deeds a copyist's mistake for Anne? If there was an Aaron Jr., he and his Agnes disappear from Adair County records and leave no trace. There may have been two Aarons, father and son; but we are now inclined to think there was no Aaron Jr., oldest son of Aaron Sr.

2) Abijah, first on tax list in 1803, and therefore born about 1782; his name appears but once. He died soon after, or moved away.

3) Margaret, b. in 1784 according to the D A R record; thus far we have found no jot of ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ fact about her.

4) Absalom; first taxed in Adair in 1807, therefore born about 1786. He married Elizabeth Smith, daughter of James Andrew Smith, ^{August 5,} in 1806. He died in November, 1815, leaving two children, and at a third on the way.

1) Wesley (1810-1886) md. Elizabeth Norris in Warren County, Ky., in 1832; moved to Gibson County, Indiana, by 1833. He did not buy land in Gibson until a year or so later. Had 9 children.

11) Margaret; one record gives her birth in 1811, another in 1813; she d. in 1889; md. Jesse Emerson (1811-1878) in Gibson in 1834. We suppose she came north with Wesley and his wife. She and Jesse Emerson had 7 children.

111) Naomi Jane b. in June, 1816, after her father's death in the preceding November.

She married Albert Epperson in Kentucky in 1836; moved to Gibson County 1839; 8 children

Elizabeth Smith Redman md. (2) Charles Epperson the wheelwright,

April 2, 1827, in Adair County, Ky.; two children :-

- 1) David Lambert Epperson, 1828-1917
- 2) James S. Epperson, 1830-1904

3) and 6) Thomas and James Redman first appear on Adair tax roll in 1810, which would indicate they were twins born about 1789. James md. Jane

Patterson in Adair in 1811; we have no further record of him. His mother's will in 1851 implies that he had died before that date. Thomas died in Adair County in 1844, leaving a widow, Mary, and several children.

7) William (1790-1853) md. Ann Creton Clark; moved to Gibson County, Indiana, about 1819; 6 children, all born in Indiana. So far as we can find out, he was the first Redman to move to Indiana. James Smith, oldest brother of Absalom Redman's widow, Elizabeth, had been established in Gibson County since before 1811 - and William Redman would almost certainly have known him, and may have been attracted to Gibson County through him.

8) Robert Redman, b. about 1797; d. 1856. (The dates on his gravestone in Mt. Moriah differ from those on his census record.) He md. Ann Smith in Adair County in 1816. She (b. about 1796, d. 1869) was a younger sister of Elizabeth Smith Redman, wife of Absalom. In other words, brothers married sisters. They moved to Indiana between 1830 and 1834, possibly with their nephew Wesley in 1832. Their oldest son, Absalom (1818-1900) md. Juliette Pruitt (a grand-daughter of Simon Williams) and had a large family. We hope to clear up this part of the Redman record soon.

9) John Redman, b. 1798 in Adair; youngest of the Redman sons, as far as we know; md. Drusilla Butler in Adair County in 1824; they moved to Gibson County some time in the 1830's. They had several children; we hope to have an accurate list later.

10) Nancy Redman md. William Clark in Adair County in 1824. Her mother mentions her in her will in 1851, as still living. We do not know whether she and her husband moved to Indiana.

11) ?? In 1826 a Matilda Redman md. Elijah King in Adair County. She may have been a daughter of Aaron and Nancy.

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The Redmans were great hands for repeating certain given names: Aaron, Absalom, Wesley, Robert - a usage which complicates genealogy.

Aaron and Nancy Ann were buried in a small family plot on their farm.

We understand that the gravestones are now all broken and fallen, so that no grave ~~ix~~ can be identified.

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James Andrew Smith's Family

James Andrew Smith (b. about 1753, d. 1837) was born in Virginia, probably in Bedford County. We know nothing about his ancestry. One branch of his descendants in Kentucky used to say that he was descended from Captain John Smith of the Pocahontas affair, but we take no stock in that. The D A R record says: "He enlisted in 1776 for two years in Captain Boyer's company of the 12th Virginia Regiment. Later he re-enlisted for three years, or during the War. He was in the service until some time in 1780, when he was on his march to join the Southern Army." That is what the D A R record says. We don't understand part of it, but there it is. One of James Andrew's descendants declared that this ancestor was present when Cornwallis surrendered. We have noticed quite a tendency on the part of descendants of Revolutionary soldiers to place their ancestors in the front row at Cornwallis's surrender. There must have been quite a gathering that day. But please, we are not picking fun at good old James Andrew Smith; could he help it if some of his descendants had elastic imaginations?

He married Margaret Truax, presumably in Bedford County, and probably before he enlisted to lick the British. Thus far we know nothing about Margaret's ancestry. However, it is practically certain that all the Truaxes in colonial days came from one Philippe de Trieux, a French nobleman who got established in The Netherlands, and then migrated to New Amsterdam around 1624. There is a long and immensely impressive genealogy of his descendants, but life outran the genealogists (it always does), and nobody now seems to know how the hifalutin' part of the family got to Bedford County, Virginia, by the 1770's.

They were common Truaxes in Bedford County, and out in Kentucky, in Adair and Green counties. We find Isaac, David and John Truax in Adair County, and we believe they were brothers of Margaret. Isaac Truax was bondsman for the marriage license of Polly Smith to Durham Creel; related certainly.

James Andrew Smith and his wife Margaret with three of their children moved from Virginia to Kentucky about 1785. There is fair evidence that they lived in Fayette County for several years, and moved to Adair County in 1801. They had their tenth child by 1801, and most of their family lived in Adair County from 1801 until around 1820. When they moved to Gibson County they did not move as one caravan, but a few at a time over perhaps twenty years or more. We have no record of Margaret Truax Smith after the birth of her tenth child, David, in 1801.

Here is working list of their children, subject to corrections and due (we hope) to receive additions:-

1) James Smith, Jr.; b. it is said in 1774 in Bedford County, Va.; d. Betsy McCrary in Kentucky about 1798-99. The problem of straightening out the McCrary family is still on the blackboard. A John McCrary, who married Ruth Wasson and moved to Gibson County in time for Tippecanoe, was (we believe) a brother of this Betsy who married James Smith Jr. (Two of John McCrary's children later married two children of a William Mangrum Jr.) From this point on we are not certain regarding James Smith Jr. He was located in Gibson territory in time for the Tippecanoe fight. Later he was county surveyor in Gibson for many years, and was commissioner of land in the "Seminary Township" - that township in each county that was set apart for support of the University of Vincennes. We believe our James Smith was the one who died in 1855. We are not ready yet to do more than guess at the names of his children. We assume the Lord loved the Smiths because He made so many of them, but we wish they would keep their Bible records in better shape.

✓ 2) Polly Smith (Mary, we suppose) was one of the three children born in Virginia. She md. Durham Greel in Adair County in 1806. We have no further record of her and her husband, but we keep our fingers crossed, for the Smiths have a clever way of turning up in Gibson.

✓ 3) John Smith, b. 1784 in Virginia. In 1818 he was already in Gibson County; md. Jane Alcorn here in that year. She was a daughter of Thomas Alcorn (1777-1855) who commanded one of the Gibson county companies at Tippecanoe. She died in 1838, and John Smith md. Patsy Daugherty who was (we suppose) related to Stephen Daugherty - see below. We do not yet have anything like an accurate line on the children of John and Jane Alcorn Smith - but hang it, those children were first-cousins of our grandma Naomi Jane, and we like to know our relatives.

✓ 4) Elizabeth (1788-1869), who married (1) Absalom Redman and (2) Charles Epperson. Definitely, she was born in Kentucky, and the interval between her brother W. John and her marks the time when the Smiths moved from Bedford County to Kentucky.

✓ 5) Andrew Smith (1790-1862) md. Asenith Stone in Adair County, Ky., in 1814. She was a daughter of Mancah Stone. She and Andrew moved to Gibson County in 1823. They had 11 children, 10 of whom married and had families. Don't forget that their daughter, Susan Jane (1828-1914) married David Lambert Epperson (1828-1917). Other children of Andrew Smith married into the families of Knowles, Emerson, Benson, Mauck, Marvel - and so on; and their fifth child, David Truax Smith, married Mary Douglas - and please tell us, somebody, what relation she was to that Mary Catherine Douglas who married William Ingram Jr.

6) Jane Smith, b. about 1792; md. to Stephen Daugherty in Adair County, Ky., in 1818. They moved to Gibson County in 1834; had 7 children, who md. and had children in turn. Stephen d. in ¹⁸⁶⁷1866; Jane in 1866.

✓ 7) Lydia Smith, b. 1794; md. Paynter Marvel in Adair County in 1822. Paynter's father, Elisha Marvel, was living in Posey or Gibson

as early as 1813, for he witnessed the will of Cary Wilkinson, son-in-law of William Wangrum Sr. It is a curious fact that he went back to Adair County, Kentucky, to marry Lydia. Had they known each other before the Marvels moved to Indiana? Paynter and Lydia had 7 children, one of whom married a Redman, one a Boren. Their youngest, Tom Marvel (b. 1834) was the Uncle Tom of Cynthiana. Paynter and Lydia and some of their kindred are buried in the little private Marvel burying ground, which is lost in the woods a few miles north of New Liberty church.

✓8) Ann Smith (1796-1869) md. Robert Redman; see Redman record

✓9) Isaac Smith (1799-1858) md. Susan Martin - date and place of marriage not known; if it took place in Indiana we wonder whether Susan was a descendant of our great-great-grandfather James Martin. His sons James Jr., Charles and Thomas, left many children whose names we do not know. In Isaac Smith's will (1833) he names 3 sons - Jesse A., Isaac W., and John P.; and 7 daughters, Naomi Jane Epperson (wife of Charles, 1826-1894), Rebecca C. Brusfield, and 5 unmarried - Priscilla, Mary, Martine, Eliza, and Helena. He appointed his son Jesse and Charles Epperson his executors. The Isaac Smith was named obviously for his uncle Isaac Truax; and Isaac Smith's daughter, Naomi Jane Epperson, named her son Isaac Epperson - and so a name is an heirloom.

10) David Smith (1801-1882) md. Eliza Clark in Adair County in 1826. He was the last of James Andrew Smith's sons to move to Indiana - in 1856. We wonder whether the Revolutionary soldier tarried late in Kentucky and came north with this youngest son. David and Eliza had 7 children, two of whom married into the Knowles and Vauck families. Their second son, Madison, reversed the ordinary current; born in 1828 he came to Gibson with his parents, but when he was grown he returned to Kentucky, attended a church college there, became an ordained minister, and lived the rest of his life in Kentucky.

Of the 10 children of James Andrew Smith and Margaret Truax, nine that we know of moved to Gibson; and if Durham Creel and his wife Polly stayed behind in Kentucky or moved elsewhere than Gibson, they must have felt lonely. We do not know when and where Margaret Truax Smith died. It would take a committee of experts to trace and record even half of the Smith descendants, and most of them, if traced, would probably feel strange if you invited them to a reunion of the descendants of Philippe de Trieux. Gibson County is a long, long way from French nobility.

James Andrew Smith, the Revolutionary soldier, died in 1837. There is a marker to his memory in Bethel cemetery, but his ashes lie in one of the many little lost family burial plots. When the modern world decided to honor him they ~~didn't~~ thought it wiser to erect the marker in an accessible place rather than in the pathless woods, and more sensible not to disturb the handful of ashes. We think the old soldier would like the solitude better.

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You see now, the Redmans and the Smiths were very closely tied up with Adair County records. Both families were very clannish in Kentucky and in the first generations in Gibson County. The Smith name fails to arouse the mind, merely because it is so common, and one cannot now be sure whether an early Smith in Gibson records is one of ours. But merely try to count the Redmans ! - and they are all ours. The descendants of Andrew Smith (1790-1862) and of David (1801-1882) have more complete records and know the story better than most of the others.

Our Mangrum Ancestors

(I'd rather have held this chapter back until some much-needed items arrive, but I'd better send it now.)

All along the line in Virginia, North Carolina, and Kentucky the name is spelled Mangrum - Mangum - Mangham - Mangam - according to the speller's ear. It is spelled at least three ways in Gibson County records. There were several Mangrum families in southeastern Virginia in the 1730's, and it is now a hopeless undertaking to clear up their relationships and to tell where they came from.

Our first Mangrum ancestor of whom we have any certain knowledge was William Mangrum Sr., born about 1745-50; his wife, Mary, who is buried at Mt. Moriah, was born in 1752. We do not know whether they were born in Virginia or North Carolina, but they were living somewhere in North Carolina about 1794, for their daughter Sarah married Cary Wilkinson about that time; and William Wilkinson (1800-1883), son of Cary and Sarah, stated in his old age that he was born in North Carolina - and he was a reliable witness. We believe that William Mangrum Sr. and Cary Wilkinson and their families moved to Kentucky about 1805.

The old Gibson County History (Tartt) states that Cary Wilkinson lived in Barren County, Kentucky, before moving to Indiana - but that is a mistake. There is no record of either Cary Wilkinson or William Mangrum Sr. in Barren County. Probably whoever took notes for Tartt wrote Barren when he should have written Warren, or maybe the printer mis-read it. William Mangrum was taxed in Warren County in 1806-07-08. Cary Wilkinson was also taxed in Warren in 1807 & 1808 and he witnessed a will there in 1807. In his old age William Wilkinson said that his family moved to Gibson territory in the fall of 1808. He ~~says~~ did not say that his grandfather William Mangrum moved at the same time, but it practically certain that he did. Remember that Lieutenant Colonel James Martin - Baptist Elder Martin - disappears from the Warren County tax list at the same time as William Mangrum Sr. We must not assert that the Martins and the Mangrums moved to Gibson County together, but it likely they did. Both families

were ardent Baptists, and though they may not have belonged to the same little log church in Warren County, they would have known each other in the Baptist Association. Every Baptist family in Warren County would have been likely to know Elder James Martin.

William Mangrum Sr.'s grandson, William Wilkinson, remembered that his folks moved to Indiana in a Conestoga wagon. "They brought with them very little household goods. Their livestock comprased two horses and a few head of cattle." Once again, we don't know whether the Mangrums and the Wilkinsons all moved in one wagon, or in two, but for reasons that will appear in a minute, we guess they pooled their all in one wagon. Which brings up the solemn question: what ferry toll did they pay for crossing the Ohio at Red Banks (Henderson) ? We have no record of ferry rates for the autumn of 1808; most likely the ferryman charged according to his conscience and the purse of the customer. Seven years later (1815) the Posey County court established rates across the Ohio as follows: "For each Wagon one hundred centz" (that z is not silent); "each Horse 12¹/₂"; each head of neat cattel 12¹/₂; each footman 12¹/₂." Tolls across the Wabash in 1822 were much cheaper: each four-wheeled loaded carriage, team and driver, .50; each man and horse, 12¹/₂; "each cow beast 06¹/₂"; each hog, sheep, or goat, 02. During high water, rates were about double. In 1819 the little ferry at Patoka charged .01¹/₂ for a hog. A fair-sized drove of hogs and middle-sized pigs and very little pigs would run into higher mathematics.

The Wilkinsons and the Mangrums built their first cabins not far from the site where Ft. Branch would later be built. In the spring of 1811 fear of an Indian uprising led the pioneers to build a stockade with two block-houses on a branch of Pigeon Creek - and that is how Ft. Branch got its name. Young William Wilkinson, then eleven, drove one of the ox-teams that hauled logs to the stockade, which was built of split logs set end and end, with two block-houses at opposite ends. During the summer of 1811, Elder Stephen Strickland preached at the home of William Mangrum - and of course that means

William Sr., for William Jr. was not yet a householder. And in December, 1800, William Sr. made entry on a quarter-section not far from the "fort." We will come back to William Jr. after a page or two.

Great-great-grandfather William Mangrum Sr. died in February or early March, 1815. The inventory of his property was filed on March 18 by his administrator, William Jr. In the Epperson chapter we have looked over the goods and livestock and tools of John Epperson in Lincoln County, Kentucky, in October, 1817 - and that date seemed early. Now we are examining the humble property of William Mangrum Sr. and his wife Mary, on what was then the northwestern frontier in 1815. There are more than a hundred items, including things reserved by the widow Mary, and the total appraisement came to \$432.76 - as against the \$1684.23½ which John Epperson's estate brought. Remember, though, that half of John's wealth consisted of his two slaves. How many of the Mangrum chattels had been grown or made right here in the wilderness, and how many had been brought the long, hard way, from Carolina through Kentucky? Make your own guesses.

There were the usual rock-bottom necessities of household tools and furniture, and tools needed in the little patches of clearing and in the woods: axes, mattock and weeding hoe and plow; churn, sifter, augurs and frow, pot-hooks, harness, and a side-saddle. There were a flax-wheel, one cotton-wheel, some wool cards. One "sundry lot of old pewter" was appraised at \$2.12½. There was "1 pr. stylardz", appraised at \$2.00 - which spelling deserved a prize for originality in handling that much-mis-spelled word. The clerk meant steel-yards; and how many of William Sr.'s great-great-grandsons have ever managed that most useful tool? There were a salt-tub, and a piece of leather, and one raw-hide worth \$3.25. Take notice: there were 7 books, appraised at \$1.09½, beside 4 more books (\$1.75) which great-great-grandmother Mary reserved for her own and her children's use. And may it please your honor the Court, and the administrator, and the clerk and all: if you will only put that lot up for sale again, we'll

run them away up; for one of the four she kept was bound to be the Bible, with the names of all her children and, no doubt, her own maiden surname, and maybe the names of the county or counties in Virginia or Carolina where she and William were born. Eleven books in one cabin in 1815: the Mangrums were readers - and that is no joke.

The really big item of furniture was the feather bed, bedstead, cord mattress, and bed furniture, appraised at a solid \$25.00. No wheeled vehicle was listed, which supports the guess that the Mangrums and the Wilkinsons pooled their goods in one Conestoga wagon when they came. And you remember that William Wilkinson said they brought only a few head of cattle. Well, by 1815 the Mangrum herd to "one little red steer", two red heifers and one brown, three cows - or maybe we should say, like the ferry schedule, "three cow beasts", and for good measure ~~one~~ ^{two} gentleman cow beasts, one big and mean and with (I bet) a crumpled horn, and one little red one. If young William Wilkinson remembered correctly, the party brought no hogs. (Imagine driving two or three brood sows all the way from Bowling Green to Ft. French! That would call for prayer.) But somehow ~~they~~ the family had got hold of a sow or two; for in 1815 there were 22 head of hogs. And for ample proof that there had been other hogs, please note: that inventory lists a total of 848¹/₂ pounds of bacon, in lots varying from 60 pounds up; each lot was appraised at its own price, the average running around .09 cents a pound. There were, beside, one trough of lard and a cake of tallow. There were fifty bushels of corn ^{worth} ~~at~~ \$20.92¹/₂, and about 43 pounds of tobacco at a little better than 10 cents a pound. (Imagine it! One family with 848¹/₂ pounds of bacon, and nobody having to ask timidly whether he might have a second slice). They lived in a wilderness, and maybe they hadn't much variety, but they ate. The old county history says that in 1817, William Wilkinson, getting to be almost a man, hunting with one Tarlton Whanks, killed two bears, one of which weighed more than 400

pounds, which would put quite a strain on the late grandpa Mangrum's "stylardz." And for a variety in diet, in the following summer young William Wilkinson joined a small party of neighbors who took an ox-team and wagon, with an outfit of pots and kettles and tubs and firkins, and spent a week down along Pigeon Creek locating and robbing bee-trees. Fifty-five gallons of honey and seventy pounds of wax they brought home from that one trip. In some ways it wasn't the worst of luck to be seventeen years old and to have the run of that country in those days.

How many children did William Sr. and Mary have? We think Sarah, who married Cary Wilkinson, was their oldest, born perhaps around 1775. William Jr. we know by the book - 1792-1841. We suppose that Lucinda Mangrum, who married Stacy Stackhouse in 1823, was a daughter of William Sr., and Mary. In May, 1825, minutes of the Big Creek Baptist church record that Sister Mary Mangrum joined "by relation" or, as we would say, by conversion, not by letter. We suppose that the minutes mean Mary Catherine, wife of William Jr. And in January, 1827, Sisters Polly and Fanny Mangrum received letters of dismissal. The "Polly" can be our Mary Catherine; but was Fanny still another sister of William Jr.? I wish we knew. Note that there is a gap of some eighteen years between the birth of Sarah (Wilkinson) and William Jr. Surely other children were born during that period; they may have died young, they may have married off along the way. A certain Henry Mangum married Polly Hobbs in Warren County, Ky., in 1815; there is the barest possibility he was ~~xxxxxxx~~ a son of our Mangrums who terried behind.

The grave of William Sr. is lost - most likely on the land he once owned. His wife Mary died December 22, 1839 - just two days after our Epperson ancestors arrived in Gibson County. Her grave at Mt. Moriah is the second one, to the left, from that of Charles Epperson the Wheelwright.

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And now go back, please to the fall of 1811. The Indians were massing for trouble up north, and William Mangrum Jr., then 19, shouldered his squirrel rifle and tramped along with other woodsmen up to Vincennes and joined General Harrison's army. In October they made their way to that bump on the east bank of the Wabash which the French called Terre Haute but which every real Indian never called anything else but Terry Hut. There they built a log fort, and then moved on up the river, and on November 7, at Tippecanoe, gave the Indians one of the worst defeats they ever suffered in the Middle West. And we were there - "we" being William Mangrum, 19; and James Smith, oldest brother of Elizabeth who later became the second wife of Charles the Wheelwright; and John McCrary, two of whose children were later to marry two children of William Mangrum Jr.; and Patrick Calvert, son-in-law of Elder James Martin. One direct ancestor and three collaterals. A family affair, you might say. Now please, we would not give the unfair impression that our folks won the Battle of Tippecanoe practically single-handed. They had to have officers, two of whom were Captain Spier Spencer and Captain John Neely. Captain Spencer, commanding a troop of mounted militia, was killed in the battle. But Captain John Neely - well, just listen to what History has to say about him: "His horse was shot under him and his spur shot off his boot. On his return home at the close of the war he was made a general of the state militia. He was for many years one of the most noted men in the county. He was a son-in-law of Judge Isaac Montgomery." Another general of militia was William Embree. Now privates are supposed to hate their officers and to lay for them and beat them up afterward, but our young William Mangrum seemed to admire him; for when he had sons to name, he named one Spier Spencer, and one William Embree, and one (most important to us) John Neely.

He really should have named one son Isaac Montgomery, for Isaac fought at Tippecanoe, and Isaac - Judge Isaac - Montgomery affected our history in still another way, as witness this document:

"I do hereby Certify that William Mangum and Polly C. Douglas were married by me on the twenty-ninth day of March ~~gixxx~~ 1812, given under my hand and seal that day and date aforesaid.
Isaac Montgomery."

Gibson County was not organized until 1813; this certificate is on file at Vincennes. And because we are under obligation to Judge Isaac Montgomery, let's quote some more from the old county history: "Judge Isaac Montgomery . . . was a large, athletic man, and in physical appearance was one of the best-looking men in the county. He was fond of hunting, and was regarded as the best shot in the county. He had a large gun made in Princeton on purpose to kill bears with." It seems that by 1832 Judge Montgomery and his gun ran out of bears and moved to Texas where they would have sore room.

Now "Polly C." Douglas, whom we think of as Mary Catherine, was a daughter of Jesse Douglas Sr. and his wife Lydia; we think she was (about four miles west of Ft. Branch) their first-born. They had come to Section 20, T 3 S, R 11 W, in 1806 - the first of our direct ancestors to settle in Gibson territory, as far as we know. It seems that, like most of our ancestors, they had tarried at least a few years in Kentucky on their way north; their oldest son, Jesse Jr., born in 1800, recorded later that he was born in Kentucky. Jesse Sr. and Lydia had 6 sons and 2 daughters that we know of. Jesse Sr. died in the late winter of 1815, within a month of William Mangum Sr. A brief record of the family will appear later; enough at present to note that Jesse Douglas Jr. and his brother Albert Warren Douglas had close ties with William Mangum Jr., their brother-in-law.

On February 2, 1816, William Mangum made entry on a part of Section 10, T 4 S, R 11 W, which means in untechnical language a part of what we know as the Epperson farm. We don't know where he built his first cabin; but the house which his grand-children

but the house which his grand-daughters remembered stood on the east side of the road opposite ~~the spot that~~ the spot that, long years afterward, became the barn-lot of what was to us the old home on Locust Hill. R. E. J. remembers seeing the basement of that house a little way north of the briar-tangled small cemetery that lies opposite Charley Epperson's home. On November 3, 1829, President Andrew Jackson granted a certificate of re-ister to great-grandfather William Mangrum; it covered the northwest quarter of section 10 as described. And so the childhood home of William Mangrum's children had the same setting which, in later years, ~~the same setting~~ and would be known by four generations of Epperson children.

Here are the 13 children of William and Mary Catherine Mangrum, with some bits of story and touches of character, forward and backward in time. A partial record of later generations will be given farther on where it can be skipped if you aren't interested in that. As was the case with Bennett Williams and Polly, William and Mary Catherine, dying in 1841-42, left several small children as well as several who were grown; and in each family the older brothers and sisters did their part by ~~taking the~~ taking the younger ones into their homes.

~~William Mangrum Jr., b. Jan. 8, 1792, probably in N. Carolina; d. March 26, 1841; md. March 29, 1812 to~~

William Mangrum Jr., b. Jan. 8, 1792, probably in N. Carolina; d. March 26, 1841; md. March 29, 1812 to

Mary Catherine Douglas, daughter of Jesse Sr. and Lydia Douglas; b. July 12 11, 1796; d. Feb. 12, 1842

Their children:-

1) Alcephus W. Mangrum, b. Feb. 18, 1813; d. Aug. 12, 1894, somewhere in Iowa. Married three times; (1) to Minerva McCrery abt. 1836. She was a daughter of John and Ruth (Wasson) McCrery. They moved to southeastern Iowa some time before 1840. Minerva died some time before 1850, for on December 29 in that year Alcephus md. (2) Jane Irvin, in Van Buren County. They were living in that county when the 1850 census was taken. Later, at date unknown, he married

Elizabeth Taylor. There was some visiting back and forth between our home folks and the Mangrum kin in Iowa; Aunt Millie Mangrum knew the different homes and locations, but thus far we have not been able to place great-uncle Alcephus after he left Van Buren County. However, we saw and with delight one of his daughters by his first marriage, Rebecca Josephine, who was born in 1843. It seems that she visited considerably in Gibson County, and in 1870 she married Joseph Joseph Woods in Gibson. They lived in Iowa; and in 1893, long after her husband's death, she was living near Seattle, Washington, with a daughter and son-in-law. It was there that we had the joy of knowing her. She was then 87, lively as a cricket, and she had one of the nicest gifts God ever allows a mortal: without effort or striving or art she was loved by everybody near her. Maybe it would have shocked some of her ancestors, but at 87 she, wearing the brightest, gayest slippers, danced a jig for us, the patter of her feet being light as a leaf. Innocent happiness, bubbling over with joy.

11) Clevia J. Mangrum (Clevia, not Olivia) b. Nov. 22, 1814; d. Sept. 14, 1907; md. James B. Blythe (1802-1890). Great-uncle James wanted (and got) it recorded on his gravestone at Mt. Moriah that he was born in Giles County, Tennessee. He was like that: a man's native county is his native county - a fact that's not to be forgotten or tampered with. The Blythes and the Borens were intermarried in Giles County, before they moved to Gibson; and James and Clevia's children and grand-children were considerably intermarried with Borens and Wilkinsons. Great-uncle James was considered a testy old man, but Father (David A.) Epperson liked him - "a natural man," was spunky and plain-spoken. And James and Clevia seemed very fond of their niece and nephew, Father and Mother Epperson. Though the Blythes lived only two or three miles away, they'd come to kaxux "Dave and Mary's" for a visit and stay two or three days. Why not? What's life for if you can't take time to visit your kin and talk things over? Beside, all Gibson and Posey counties knew that Mary Catherine Epperson set a table that encouraged

folks to set up and enjoy their vittles. After Uncle James passed on, no doubt letting it be known in heaven that he came originally from Giles County, Tennessee, Aunt Olevia used to visit Dave and Mary and stay for a week. You had time to know your relatives in those days.

When great-grandmother Mary Catherine Douglas Mangrum died in 1842, Olevia Blythe took her brother John Neely Mangrum (our grandfather) into her home.

(iii) Narcissa Ann Mangrum, b. Sep. 10, 1816; d. Nov. 13, 1900 in Keosauqua, Iowa. She married Abner Harrison McCrery in Gibson County, Feb. 4, 1834. He (b. 1814-d.1898) was a brother of Minerva McCrery who md. Alcephus Mangrum. They were descended from James McCrery (1737-1820), a Revolutionary soldier from N. Carolina who died in Barren County, Kentucky. (We believe, but so far cannot prove, that the Betsy McCrery who married James Smith, oldest brother of Elizabeth, second wife of Charles the Wheelwright, was a daughter of this James McCrery.) John McCrery (1771-1857), a son of James, md. Ruth Wasson in Iredell County, N. Carolina, and migrated to Tennessee; in 1810 they came to Gibson County. Joseph Wasson, a Newlight-Christian preacher, and John Wasson, a teacher, came to Gibson about the same time; almost certainly they were relatives of Ruth. And John McCrery himself was later ordained a Newlight-Christian preacher. In 1836 John and Ruth Wasson McCrery moved to southeastern Iowa territory, settling in what later became Van Buren County. With them went Abner Harrison and another of their sons; and we suppose that Alcephus Mangrum moved at the same time or shortly after. John and Ruth left behind them in Gibson County their daughter Polly, who had md. John Boren, and Lucinda who had md. John McConnell. John McCrery was, therefore, one of the very first Christian preachers in Iowa. Abner Harrison McCrery became a state senator and a man of considerable influence in Iowa; one of his sons became a leading attorney and a judge; and another of John McCrery's grandsons became Secretary of War under President Hayes.

One of Narcissa Ann's grand-daughters writes that she was a tiny woman, weighing less than a hundred, and that she carried on the hard work of a pioneer mother with a fierce energy - all of which sounds strangely familiar to those who have known Mangrum women.

R. E. J. remembers the story of how Uncle James and Aunt Clevia Blythe visited Abner Harrison and Narcissa McCrary, out there in I-o-way, after the McCrary family had become well-to-do. Uncle James felt that Abner Harrison and Narcissa were sort of putting on the dog, living in a stone house, right in town. Marble steps, that house had, and a balcony with iron railings over the front door. And two servants. Not hired girls, but servants, to wait on ye. Servants that come in the guest-room and turned down the bed covers of an evening, as if a man wouldn't know how to get into bed proper, without help. There were other details to enrich the story, but we'll have to wait till the children go to bed.

bands and "doted on a singin' skule."

Hearty families accumulate their own stock of anecdotes, absurd little things that they repeat a hundred times. Once when Uncle "Spence" was on a visit back ~~in~~ back from Iowa, he and some other old-time family friend - Scott some-body or other - were at dinner at Uncle Traft's, and Uncle Traft asked one of them to say grace. Maybe he didn't speak too clearly or maybe one of them was verging the least bit toward deafness, anyway they both started to say grace - then suddenly stopped. "Go ahead, Scott," urged Uncle Spence. "Go ahead, Spence," urged Scott. And so they both began again, and stopped again. "Go ahead, Scott." "Go ahead, Spence." And of course they both did. And both stopped a third time. And then Uncle Traft, grasping the situation - both guests too polite for any use - solved the problem by saying grace himself. Beside, Aunt Eunice's biscuits would be ruined if they weren't served right now.

Some of our happiest memories of Uncle Spence's family are concerned with his youngest daughter, Mileta, who married Captain Oliver Danielson. They lived for many years at Avalon, on Cataline Island, where "Captain Dan" operated a boat in which he took sports-loving "big-game" fishermen fishing, for hire. His boat was one of the best, and he was an expert at knowing where the gamiest fish were. We shall never forget the color and excitement of a night trip with him, when the flying fish leaped from the water to the lure of his spot-light. But our best story about him goes back to 1915 when Father and Mother Epperson paid the Danielsons a visit. Now although Mother Epperson had lived all her life near Big Creek and Jordan, she had never dropped a line in the water. She had fried bushels of fish but never tried to catch one. Well, Captain Danielson took "Dave and "ary" out in his nifty cruiser, and ~~whzthx~~ good pilot though he was he could hardly have known so perfectly just where the big fish were that day. Partly his skill, no doubt, but more a wonderful dispensation of kind Providence: he slowed up at what seemed to be a good spot, and baited their hooks, and they cast, and bingo! Mother

Epperson's rod became alive and her reel sang and she braced her slender little body and began to reel in, according to Captain Dan's instructions, and he stood by with the zaff, and in a minute she landed a barracuda or maybe it was a yellowtail, three feet long. Well ! So that's the way you do it. Captain Danielson baited up for her, and she cast again, and z-z-zing goes the reel and - you simply repeat the process and keep cool and reel in, and land another three-footer. Children, the world expects tall stories when anybody writes about fishing. But please, I am writing about Mary Catherine Mangrum Epperson - Mother Epperson; and a more truthful woman never lived. During the next hour or so she caught fifteen more fish - seventeen in all - and a fifteen of them were three feet long or longer. Two runts, thrown in I suppose merely for contrast, were around two feet each. Why talk about skill ? or luck ? Merely, the God who made little fish and big fish used an opportunity to be especially nice to a beginner that day. The calmness with which she regarded the whole affair makes the nicest part of the story.

vi) Valentine Stephenson Mangrum, b. Dec. 29, 1822; d. Dec. 14, 1908; md. Mary "Polly" Duncan (1825-1904). She was a daughter of Greenberry Duncan (b. 1790) and his wife Sarah Roberts (1790-1874). The Duncans had 8 children, one of whom married a Yeager, one a Martin, and one an Emerson - the others marrying outside "our" families.

Valentine and Polly had 10 children, a record of whom will be given farther on. Their oldest son, William Floyd Mangrum (b. 1846) md. our Aunt Mary Frances Epperson (1845-1905). Valentine and Polly are remembered as very gentle and dear old people .

vii) William Embree Mangrum, b. Dec. 21, 1824; d. Dec. 30, 1886; md. Julia Ann Rutledge (1825-1919). Their one child, Laura, b. 1857, d. in 1865. They lived near Ft. Branch. ~~His~~ Great-grandfather William Mangrum Jr. named this son for William Embree, another Gibson County man

who was about great-grandfather's age. William Embree (Embree, mind you, not Mangrum) was a son of Joshua Embree who came to Gibson quite early. Joshua died in 1813, his will being the first to be recorded in Gibson County after the county's organization. Joshua's son, Elisha, became a leading lawyer and then a judge in Princeton. Joshua's will illustrates a question at law, not infrequent in that time: he had left behind him in Cumberland County, Ky., several slaves whom we would not or could not bring into Indiana; dying in 1813 he disposed of those slaves - at a distance. There were several cases where a slave-owner used a subterfuge of declaring the slave legally free, and then binding him as an indentured servant.

Tartt says that the William Embree (whom great-grandfather admired) became some sort of general in the militia after the War of 1812.

viii) John Neely Mangrum b. Jan. 13, 1827; d. March 16, 1887;
md. Jan. 4, 1849 Matilda Williams, b. Feb. 23, 1828, d. Feb. 1, 1912.
They will have a chapter of their own a little farther on.

ix) Henry Jeffreys Mangrum, b. March 4, 1829; d. Oct. 14, 1904;
md. (1) Susan M. Titchener, Aug. 18, 1852; ~~xxxxxx~~ md. (2) Anna Kendle,
Oct. 30, 1856. It is said the two wives were either sisters or cousins.
Thus far we have no record of Henry's children.

When his parents died he was taken into the home of his uncle Albert Warren Douglas.

x) Amanda Catherine Mangrum b. May 12, 1831; d. June 21, 1914;
md. Oct. 13, 1852 to William L. Woods. They lived on a farm a few miles south
west of Princeton

xi) Mary Mangrum b. Sept. 1835; d. at age of 1 yr, 9 months.

xii) Lydia Avaline Mangrum, b. Sept. 19, 1835; d. Jan. 28, 1924;
md. John Selby abt. 1850; they were living near Petersburg in Fike County,
Indiana, at time of 1860 census; had 4 children - Nancy, William, Spencer
and Henry. Thus far we have no later record.

xiii) Miletta Ellen Mangrum, b. July 22, 1838; d. Feb. 4, 1883; md. William Peterson. They lived in Pawnee County, in extreme southeastern Nebraska; had 3 children. Sorry, but we have no further record.

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Some Notes on the Family of Jesse Sr. and Lydia Douglas

The old county history states: "Another early settler ((of Johnson Township) was Jesse Douglas and family who settled on Section 20, Township 3, in the fall of 1806." ((Range 11 is implied a little earlier in the context)). That would be about four miles directly west of Ft. Branch. A few lines farther on, "John Sides and family, who were South Caroliniana, came with the Douglas family, and their cabins were built only a few hundred yards apart."

So far as we know, Jesse Douglas was our first direct ancestor to settle in Gibson territory. The second quoted sentence above does not say that Jesse Douglas came from South Carolina; merely that he and John Sides, who was from South Carolina, came with their families together. It would be an exception if both families did not tarry a few years in Tennessee or Kentucky. The old history goes on to say that when Cary Wilkinson (son-in-law of William Mangrum Sr.) came in the fall of 1808 he found in the neighborhood of -loosely speaking - Johnson's Township, among a few other settlers, Andrew Douglas, who had settled here in 1806. No hint is given as to whether Jesse and Andrew were related, but it would seem likely that they were. For what it may be worth Andrew Douglas was living in Wilkes County, N. Car. in 1790. We have no hint as to what became of him and his family after they came to Gibson in 1806.

We know what became of Jesse, but there's a headache in the records. Jesse died early in the spring of 1815, about a month after his neighbor William Mangrum Sr. The inventory of Jesse's ~~gains~~ estate was filed on April 21, and Lydia figures in the settlement as she should; but throughout the record in the old probate book the deceased man is called John Douglas. Whether Jesse had two forenames, or whether the clerk made a mistake and

stuck to it, we do not know; but there is no reasonable doubt that the Douglas who died in the spring of 1815 was Jesse Sr., father of Mary Catherine. Here is a tentative list of the children of Jesse and Lydia:-

- ✓1) Mary Catherine (1796) b. 1796; md. Wm. Mangrum Jr.; d. 1842
- ii) Mahala, b. abt 1798; md. April 13, 1815 to Moody Ingram, in Gibson County. He was doubtless related to the Allen Ingram who made entry of government land in section adjoining land of William Mangrum Sr. in 1810. The old history says that Allen Ingram came in 1807.
- iii) Jesse Jr., b. July 2, 1800; d. 1880; md. Nancy somebody, who was b. in 1808 in Delaware. They had 8 children, born between 1828 and 1851. Jesse was co-executor of the estate of William Mangrum Jr., with James Wilson. Jesse's wife, Nancy. d. in 1895; they were buried at Blythe's chapel.
- iv) Albert Warren (1808-1893) md. (1) Nancy . . . (1808-1883); md. (2) Mahala . . . (1826-1918). Buried at Blythe's Chapel. We have not yet a definite record of his children, but he had a son Jesse (1837-1922) who married Sophronia Harris (1842-1932); and the Cornelius Douglas (1830-1904), who md. Nancy Harris (1840-1906) was also probably a son of Albert Warren.
- v) Isaac P. Douglas md. Nancy Bullage, in Gibson, Feb. 20, 1827. In 1830 census credited with one son not yet one year old. No further record.
- vi) William was listed in 1830 census as having wife and 2 children. Isaac P. and William may have been older than Albert Warren.

In the 1820 census, the widow Lydia Douglas is credited with six boys and young men - presumably her sons: 3 between 10-15; 1, 15-18; 2, 18-26.

Henry Locke Douglas, b. July 1, 1830; d. Dec. 15, 1864. He was a private in Co. F., 80th Indiana Infantry (Captain James Epperson's company), and was killed in action. He married Mary Somebody about 1854; their daughter, Jennie Catherine Douglas, b. 1855, md. Charles Wesley Epperson, Jan. 24, 1875. He was the youngest son of Albert Epperson. Charles Wesley Epperson and his wife died young; their son Curtis was brought up by our Grandma Naomi Jane.

Thus far we do not know who were the parents of Henry Locke Douglas; Jesse Jr. is eliminated (we have the full list of his children)

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A brief record of the families of some of William and Mary C. Mangrum's children

The Family of Alcephus W. Mangrum (1813-1894)

Thus far we have only a very imperfect list of his children; and, for that matter, a very imperfect record of his three marriages. He married:-

(1) Minerva McCrary, of Gibson County, about 1835. They had six children, including Clara (b. 1838); Rebecca Josephine, b. 1843, md. Joseph Woods; Ellen, who md. Harland Wynne; and Manta, who never married. (Names of the other two not yet on our records)

(2) Alcephus md. Jane Irvin, Dec. 29, 1850, in Van Buren County, Iowa. This marriage was performed by Elder John McCrary. There were six children by this marriage. The 1860 census gives Samantha K. (6); Lysander F. (4); Mary (2); Mileta (1). Names of the other two not yet on our records; though it is fairly certain one of them was Ella. Aunt Josie Record remembers that in the middle 1870's her father (John Neely Mangrum) visited in Iowa, and that Lysander F. Mangrum came back to Indiana with him, to work on the farm, but developed tuberculosis soon and returned to Iowa to die.

(3) Alcephus md. Elizabeth Taylor, presumably at some time in the late 1860's, for one grandson of Abner Harrison McCrary who visited Uncle Alcephus in 1872 remembers there were two small-boy cousins, Charles and Cornell, who were of the third set of children; and other McCrary descendants remember that there were six ~~xxx~~ children by this third marriage-eighteen in all! Shall we ever recover the full roll of Uncle Alcephus' children? Probably not.

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Family of James B. Blythe (1808-1890) and his wife Clevia Mangrum (1814-1907)

i and ii) Margaret and Mary, b. 1834, twins according to 1850 census. Margaret md. Bailey Williams, youngest son of Bennett and Polly Martin Williams. Mary's name does not appear in 1860 census, and we have no further record of her.

iii) William, b. about 1839; no further record after 1850.

iv) Ruth C., b. about 1843; md. James Lowe; 6 children, of whom

Mary Lou Lowe md. James Boren, a younger brother of the Frank Boren who md. Aunt Sophronia Mangrum.

v) John

vi) Henry

vii) Julia Blythe md. John Wilkinson (1851-1939); he was a son of Amos C. and Nancy Pruitt Wilkinson; and Amos C. was a son of William Wilkinson, who was a son of Cary Wilkinson and Sarah Mangrum, who was a daughter of William Mangrum Sr. The primary class in genealogy will please figure out what relation John Wilkinson was to Julia Blythe before they were married.

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Family of Abner Harrison McCrary (1814-1898) and his wife Narcissa Ann Mangrum (1814-1900). Moved from Gibson County to Van Buren County, Iowa, in 1836; lived the rest of their lives in that county. They had five sons and one daughter:-

- i) William Melvin md. Emmaline Marriot; had 3 sons, 2 daughters; 5 grandchildren; further record not known
- ii) Marietta (1838-1929) md. William Jasper Garvin, 1858; lived in Kansas, Nebraska, and finally in Oregon. Had 7 children:
 - a) Charles Curtis b. 1861; md Rose Jackson; 6 children
 - b) William Wallace, b. 1864; md. Julia E. Black; lives in Portland, Oregon; 3 children
 - c) Anna Laura b. 1866; md. Thomas Holt; 3 children
 - d) James Harrison, b. 1872; md. Irene Wilson; lives in Roseburg, Oregon; 2 children
 - e) Emma Zula, b. 1876; md. Devern Wilkinson; lives in Superior, Mont.; 2 children
 - f) Albert Nelson b. 1879; md. Mae Clark; 2 children
 - g) Osa Mc. b. 1881; md. . . 3 children
- iii) James Nelson md. Kate Ruffstodler; one dau. Letta, md. Harry L. Pound; she lives in Jersey City, N. Jer.,
- iv) Alvin Jasper, b. 1844; md. Anna Caroline Ford in 1868; had 2 daughters, both married. He became a lawyer in Keokuk; was district judge in Iowa; moved to Binghamton, N. Y. in 1900; corporation lawyer; d. 1929
- v) Curtis Rodney md. Lute Gaines; 2 daughters living
- vi) Ira Clinton md. Mary Ellis; one son living

Since John McCrory (1771-1857) and his wife Ruth Wasson (1776-1857) lived for twenty-five years in Gibson and Posey and Vanderburg Counties, and since two of their children continued to live there, a list of their children may be of interest:-

- i) James (1797-1885) md. Matilda Forest in Posey County, 1821; lived in Keokuk, Iowa. Had several children. Their son, George W., a prominent attorney, was a congressman, and became Secretary of War under President Hayes.
- ii) Polly md. John Boren in Gibson County, 1814; their daughter Eunice md. Trafton Mangrum; their daughter Caroline md. Cap. James Epperson; their son Samuel Hampson Boren was father of Mary Boren, who md. Uncle Patrick Epperson.
- iii) Lucinda (1800-1860) md. John McConnel (1794-1878) in Posey; they seem to have had the usual-sized family, but we have no record.
- iv) Rebecca md. John Gale
- v) Abner Harrison (1814-1898) md. Narcissa Mangrum (1815-1900)
- vi) Minerva md. Alcophus Mangrum
- vii) John Cephus md. Aaron Leach; lived in Van Buren Co. Iowa.

Family of Trafton Mangrum

Trafton Mangrum (1818-1890) md. Eunice Boren (1819-1894), daughter of John and Polly (McCrory) Boren. Their 5 children:-

i) John, b. 1841; was member of Co. F, 80th Indiana Infantry - captain James Epperson's company. He md. Elizabeth Mauck, a niece of Esther Mauck, 2d wife of Captain Epperson. They had 5 children: Ella Clark, Oscar, Valentine, Pearl Bryant, and Carl.

ii) William Valentine (1845-1868)

iii) Caroline (1852-1925) md. Ford Martin of Synthiana; no children.

iv) James T (1855-1942) md. Ida Witherspoon (1862-1941). Their daughter Lula md. Albert Lowe; and their daughter Eleanor md. Robert Epperson.

v) Absalom (1859-1880)

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Family of Spier Spencer Mangrum (1820-1904)

he md. (1) Sally Ann Epperson (1821-1842) in Gibson County. She d. soon after the birth of her son, Charles William Mangrum. Spencer md. (2) Mary Narcissa Smith Neal, about 1843, in Gibson County.

i) Charles William Mangrum (1842-1916); d. in Los Angeles

Charles William Mangrum md. (1) Jennie . . . ; had 3 children: 2 daughters and son Arthur of San Francisco. Arthur was md. but had no children. Charles William md. (2) Kate . . . ; had two sons, William of Oregon and Spencer of Los Angeles. At present, no further record. We had heard that Lloyd Mangrum, the golfer, was a grandson of Arthur, but that is a mistake. He may be a grandson of either ~~James~~ William or Spencer; he himself seems not to know.

Children of Spencer Mangrum's second marriage:-

ii) Martha, b. abt. 1844; md. Astury Palmer; d. in Tulsa, Oklahoma; had 2 daughters, both now dead, each left children.

iii) Mary, b. abt. 1847; md. James Hedson. She d. abt. 1877; left 2 children: Ernest, who lives at Avalon, Catalina Island; and Rilla, who md. Peter Reyes and lived at Avalon.

iv) Diadema Grilla, b. June 6, 1849, in Marion Co. Iowa; d. 1899 in Fulton Co., Ill. She md. in Fulton County John C. Bryant, 1872. Two children: (1) Coralee, who md. James ~~Maxxik~~ Howarth and lives at Mt. Shasta, Calif.; they have 3 sons and 2 daughters, all md. and all have children. (2) Diadema also had a son, Charles C. Bryant who md. Felicia Bennett; lives at Bryant in Fulton County, Ill.; has 2 sons and 3 daughters, all md. and with children.

v) Gerolda Mangrum md. John Veek; lived at Lincoln Nebraska. A son, Roy Veek, lives at Lincoln; md. and has two children.

vi) Abner Mangrum; killed in accident at age of 21; unmd.

vii) Henry (1858-1943) md. Phoebe Graham; had 3 children:-

(a) Miriam md. Elmer Epperson; 2 children

(B) Chester Cullimore Mangrum; 2 children

Margaret, md. Wm. H. Dodson 3d

Chester Graham Mangrum, killed in World War II

(c) Jessie

viii) Melita Davisa, b. 1863; md. Captain Oliver Isaac Danielson; children d. in infancy.

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Family of Valentine Stephenson Mangrum (1822-1908) md. Polly Duncan (1825-1904). Their 10 children :-

i) William Floyd, (1846-) md. Mary Frances Epperson (1845-1905), Father Epperson's sister. Uncle Floyd and Aunt Mary Frances had 2 children; both died young.

ii) Frances Marion, b. 1847; md. Lydia Conlinson

iii) George W., b. 1848; md. (1) Martha Alice Smith in 1872; (2) Matilda Kendall in 1878

iv) James L. (1851-1900) md. Mary Kendall

v) Stephen Lindsay, b. 1854; md. Mary E. West

vi) Lydia E. b. 1855; md. Alfred Martin

vii) Sarah E. (1857-1916) md. James E. Williams

viii) Thomas Alfred (1859-1948) md. Anne Epperson in 1884.

ix-x) two other children died in inf. infancy.

Family of William Woods and wf. Amanda Catherine Mangrum (1831-1914)

- i) Ann md. Joseph Emerson
- ii) Jane md. John McCarty
- iii) John md. Essie Cushman
- iv) Martha md. Calvin Emerson
- v) Clevia md. . . . McCarty
- vi) George md. Eliza Brown

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WILKINSON-MANGRUM

Sarah Mangrum, daughter of William Mangrum Sr. and Mary, md. Cary Wilkinson presumably in N. Carolina, abt. 1794; came to Gibson (territory) in 1808. Cary Wilkinson died late in 1815, the same year as William Mangrum Sr. One of the witnesses of his will was Elisha Marvel, father of Paynter Marvel who md. Lydia Smith, sister of Elizabeth who was 2d. wife of Charles Epperson the wheelwright. Young William Mangrum Jr. was co-executor with his sister Sarah Wilkinson.

A full record of the Wilkinsons down to, say, 1875, would fill pages. We give here only a bare outline of the first two generations. They were all Mangrum descendants; and some of them married early into Pruitt family, and that made them in-laws of Simon Williams' descendants.

Cary Wilkinson and Sarah had 13 children, 4 of whom died in infancy soon after the family settled in Indiana. Their 9 children who matured:-

- i) Mary (Folly) md. John Simpson
- ii) Patsy
- iii) Nancy md. Eli Bartre in 1818, in Gibson Co.
- iv) William (1800-1888) a stout hickory-grained man whose memory helped fill many pages of Tertt's History of Gibson County. His own family listed below.
- v) Rebecca
- vi) Delilah md. James B. Davis in 1828, in Gibson County
- vii) Patsy, md. Sally Webster in 1829 in Gibson; and there is some support for the belief that she was a second-cousin of Daniel Webster. Min' you, we do not say proof, but some likelihood. Remotely, indirectly, by second-hand, we now and then almost touch greatness!

The above-named seven children were born either in N. Car. or Kentucky; the next two in Indiana.

- viii) Isaiah (1814-1885); family record below
- ix) Martha (1815-1892) md. Stephen Datus Linzy

Our records are limited to the descendants of William, Isaiah, and Martha.

William Wilkinson (1800-1888) md (1) Mary M. Miller in 1820 in Posey County. She d. in 1849; all his children were by her. He md. (2) Elizabeth Bennett. He and Mary had 11 children: Aaron B. (1821-1895); Patsy; Levi (1825-1914); Amos C. (1826-1891); John; Delila; Isaiah; Sarah Emily (who md. Benj. F. Carter); Narcisse, Esther, and Silas. Several of these died young. Aaron B. md. Lucinda Montgomery; had 8 children, among whom was Austin S., who taught at Union Christian College. Levi (1825-1914) was the beloved Uncle Levi who lavished so

much upon the Christian Church. His second wife was his cousin Julia, daughter of Isaiah Wilkinson; he had no children by either marriage. Amos C. (1826-1891) was twice married; by his second wife, Nancy K. Pruitt, was a grand-daughter of Moses and Phoebe Pruitt, and therefore a great-grand-daughter of Simon Williams. Amos and Nancy had 10 children.

Isaiah Wilkinson (1811-1885), youngest son of Cary and Sarah, was md. three times; all his children were from the second marriage, with Mary Pruitt, daughter of Moses and Phoebe (and aunt of Nancy K., second wife of Amos C. Wilkinson). Isaiah's son, Moses Wilkinson (1838-1887) was a private in Captain James Epperson's famous Co. F., 80th Indiana Infantry; and he married Nancy J. Bixler (1841-1928) a sister of Uncle Rudy Bixler, who was his comrade in that same company. Isaiah's son, William W. Wilkinson, (1848-1926) md. Amanda J. Redman (1854-1929); they were the parents of Claude and Ellen. Please note that those two were descendants of William Munger Sr., of Simon Williams, and of Aaron Redman; so far as we can see, they had no Epperson blood, nor any Martin, yet they were related to us three ways. Isaiah Wilkinson's youngest daughter, Mary K., md. James V. Lowe (1849-1939) and their descendants wove themselves into the pattern until it would take some pages to identify all the relationships.

Martha Wilkinson (1815-1892), younger sister of Isaiah (above) and youngest child of Cary and Sarah, md. Stephen Datus Linzy, who spelled Lindsay the way it is pronounced. He and Martha had six children; and their sons Jasper and Isaiah Linzy each had 7 children - and so on and on and on.

BOREN

Nicholas Boren (1756-1826), b. in Ireland, migrated to Penn.; md. Mary Hampson (1759-1837). She too was an emigrant from Ireland. Nicholas was Rev. soldier, wounded at Brandywine. Moved to Tennessee; thence to Indiana about 1814. Nicholas and Mary buried at Mt. Moriah; his is one of the earliest gravestones there. He and Mary had 9 children; in left-hand column are the four whose descendants married into Eppersons and Mangrums. The page is too narrow to carry all generations down to the present, but you can extend it in a few cases.

Margaret Boren b. 1780 md.	James Blythe 1808-1890 md.	See their family record for their descendants
Jahue Blythe	Olevia Mangrum 1814-1907	

James Boren 1781-1869 md.	John McNairy Boren? 1810-1876 md.	James H. Boren 1837-1904 md.	i) Loretta Boren md Robert Herriott (his 2d wife)
Jane Blair 1791-1866	Mary Ann Chaffee 1810-1885	Sarah Epperson 1841-1905	ii) Albert Boren

Ezekiel Boren 1792-1873 md.	Absalom Boren md Mary J. Hughes	Franklin Boren 1851-1883 md.	i) Lester Boren ii) Annie Tribble
Rosa Evans 1795-1863		Sophronia Mangrum 1851-1929	iii) Arthur Boren

John Boren 1796-1870 md	i) Samuel Hampson Boren 1817-1881 md	Mary Boren 1840-1916 md	i) Hiram Epperson 1862- md
Elizabeth Evans Polly McGrary 1797-1876	Dorcas Montgomery 1820-1903	Patrick Epperson 1836-1895	Sophia Grotius
			ii) Ellis Epperson 1865-1934 md. Sarah Martin

ii) Eunice Boren 1819-1894 md.	James Mangrum md	Lula Mangrum md	Eleanor Low md
Trafton Mangrum 1818-1890	Ida Witherspoon	Albert Low	Robert Epperson

	Boren		
iii) Caroline Mangrum	Alice Epperson md.	James Herriott	
md	Robt. Herriott (his 1st wife)		
Capt. James Epperson 1830-1904			

Remember, some forenames, such as Absalom, occur more than once

Some of the soldiers in Co. F, 80th Indiana Infantry Regt.

Alfred Dale Cwen, of New Harmony, was Lieut. Colonel, later promoted to Colonel. Russell J. Showers, of Cynthiana, was captain; killed at Resaca, Georgia, May 14, 1864. First Lieutenant James S. Epperson was promoted captain after Resaca. Here are a few who were related to us in one way or another, also a few who were well-known neighbors.

Brunfield, John discharged March 17, '63; disability; d. soon after. Son of James and Sarah Williams Brunfield; grandson of Bennett and Polly Martin Williams

Boren, Wm. K. killed at Perrysville, Ky., Oct. 8, 1862. The company was sent into that battle just a month after receiving its first arms; lost heavily. Wm. K. Boren was a brother of Eunice, who md. Uncle Trafton Mangrum; and of Caroline, first wife of Captain James Epperson.

Boren, James H. Son of John McNairy Boren; later md. our Aunt Sarah Epperson, dau. of Albert and Naomi Jane

Bixler, Benedict R. ; discharged on account of wounds, Jan. 7, 1863

Heisker, John No relation, but long-time neighbor

Lindsay, Jasper Son of Martha Wilkinson, therefore Mangrum descendant

Mangrum, John Son of Trafton and Eunice

Pruitt, Moses I suppose a grandson of Moses and Phoebe Pruitt; therefore a Williams descendant; he d. at Elizabethtown, Ky., April 6, '63

Redman, Newton son of John and Drueilla (Butler) Redman, therefore first cousin of grandda Naomi Jane; he d. in Andersonville prison, Sept. 12, '64

Redman, Sam

Wilkinson, Rene C. Son of Aaron E. and Lucinda Montgomery Wilkinson; great-grandson of William Mangrum Sr.

Wilkinson, Moses son of Isaiah and Mary Pruitt Wilkinson; grandson of William Mangrum Sr.; great-grandson of Simon Williams Sr. He md. Nancy J. Bixler, sister of Benedict R. Bixler - Uncle Rudy to us.

Williams, Romelia E. ; youngest son of George and Audrey; therefore a grandson of Simon Williams

Williams, Newton d. at Elizabethtown, Ky., March 17, '63; son of Simon Williams Jr. and his wife Lavina Shearer; therefore grandson of Bennett and Polly Martin Williams, and great-grandson of Simon Williams and James Martin. He is buried in that little lost Bennett Williams plot, near the road between Cynthiana and Roseyville.

Recruits

Douglas, Henry Locke; enlisted Jan. 9, 1864; killed in action at Nashville, Dec. 15, '64. He was the grandfather of Curtis Epperson. Thus far we do not know his parents; almost certainly, though, a grandson of Jesse Douglas Sr.

Williams, William Home address given as St. Wendell - same as for Newton Williams (above). We cannot identify him.

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According to the record, the 80th Regiment traveled 7245 miles:

by water	1050	
by rail	2445	
on foot	3750	(that is some walk)

80th Regt. Company E:

58th Regt.

Flythe, Andrew H

James E. Blythe

CO R

killed at Mission Ridge, Nov. 25, '63

Epperson, William.

b. d. at Corinth, Miss. May 10. '62
 son of William H. and Ann Epperson, brother of
 Albert.

*purged around 1950 by Rosette Eggerson
and her husband Wm -1- Prof. O. L. James.*

The Family of Simon Williams

D. Cleveland
2018

First, we have to correct a bad mistake that got fastened onto our family record. We understand that the mistake was made by a descendant of Lewis Williams, younger brother of our great-grandfather Bennett Williams. It concerns the ancestry of Simon Williams, father of Bennett (and of 13 other children.) The mistaken record runs as follows - numbered by generations:-

1) Thomas Williams of Beaufort County, North Carolina, d. in 1759; had 10 children. His sixth child, Robert, supposed to be our ancestor, was also supposed to have settled in Bute County - a county now extinct, embracing part of the territory of Granville and Warren Counties.

2) This Robert of Bute died in 1772; had 10 children, including Simon, whom we'll call Simon Sr.

3) Simon Sr. had 3 sons and 5 daughters; second son, Simon Jr., was supposed to be our great-great-grandfather, born in 1753 in Warren County, N. Carolina.

4) Simon Jr. was, by this faulty record, living in Warren County, N. Carolina in 1808. Max Either Simon Sr. or Simon Jr. died in Warren County, N. Car. in 1808.

We have copies of the wills of Thomas Williams of Beaufort (1759), Robert of Bute (1772), and Simon of Warren (1808). We are not picking on anybody. We have worked harder on this phase of family history than on any other, with the possible exception of the Harris family. I could fill pages with details, but in brief:-

1) Thomas of Beaufort and his son Robert have absolutely nothing to do with Robert of Bute. Robert, son of Thomas of Beaufort, was not more than 16 when his father died, yet (according to the above scheme) he was supposed to have a grandson born in 1753. Robert of Beaufort never moved to Bute County, and had no connection whatever with the Bute County family.

2) We could fill several pages with details about ~~the~~ Simon Sr. and Simon Jr. of Warren County, N. Carolina. We wonder whether the original mistake may not have come about because of confusing Warren County, N. Car., with Warren County, Ky. We will give the details if you want them. The truth simply is: Simon Sr. of North Carolina is not the father of our Simon, and Simon Jr. of North Carolina is not our Simon at all. The names of children, of sons-in-law, of everybody concerned, and the amount and nature and location of the property, all show clearly that our Simon was not of the Warren County (N. Car.) clan. For example, the 1790 census for North Carolina shows the Simon Williams family of Warren County to have had three grown men and one boy. But the same census shows the Simon Williams family of Rowan County, North Carolina, to have had one grown man and three boys, beside the mother and daughters. Now look over the list of our Simon's children, and note that this Rowan County family fits our Simon to a T, with the single exception that there is one more female in the family than Simon's wife and four daughters. The extra one may well have been a grandmother, an aunt.

There were three Simon Williamses in that 1790 census; the one in Rowan County is ours; and this merely confirms the fact that the two wills that we have of the Warren County (N. Car.) men do not jibe with our man at all. The Warren County family were big slave-holders and had large plantation interests. Our Simon of Rowan County owned no slaves (according to the census), and there is no record that he ever did while in Warren County, Ky. We know that our Simon was living in Warren County, Kentucky, from soon after 1800 until at least 1812; and that seven of his sons and daughters married there. These were the names we have by heart from our own Bible record, with the familiar names of the men and women they married. The names of the sons and daughters and the sons-in-law of the Warren County, N. Car. family as listed in the will of : 08 are total strangers.

Our Simon and his wife, Polly Ann, named their oldest son Bennett (who became our great-grandfather.) Now anybody who has worked long at this hobby would say at once that they were ^{giving} ~~making~~ the boy ~~take~~ his mother's surname, and we have followed Bennetts clear across North Carolina - with no luck. Moreover, there was a genuine Bennett Williams who fought in the Revolutionary War, and lived in Person County, N. C., after the War. His pension record file contains fairly extensive biography, and it seems clear beyond a doubt that he was not related to our Simon.

Some one may say to us, "If you destroy our supposed Warren County ancestry, you ought to supply an authentic one." Well, we have a digest of more than 50 Williams wills in North Carolina files for that period; we will give them free to anybody who wants to tackle the problem. There were 19 Williams families in Warren County (North Carolina, mind you - not Kentucky) in 1720; there were 20 Williams families in Rowan County, and a few hundred in the entire state.

Please glance at our Simon's list of children, a few pages farther on. His second child, Phoebe, was born Feb. 6, 1781. She married Moses Pruitt in Kentucky in 1805; they moved to Indiana, and lived the rest of their lives in the neighborhood of Calvert's Chapel. Phoebe lived until 1858, and that brought her within the scope of the 1850 census - the first census that named all members of the household, told how old they were, and in what state they were born. Now great-aunt Phoebe Pruitt stated that she was born in Virginia. Her brother Lewis, b. in 1789, stated that he was born in North Carolina; and there is a strong tradition that Bennett (b. 1782) and all who followed him were born in North Carolina. But Phoebe (and presumably her older sister, Betsy) were, by Phoebe's declaration, born in Virginia. Many years after Phoebe's death, one of her grandsons stated that her father, our Simon, came from Culpeper County, Virginia. The present clerk of Culpeper court writes that he finds no record of a Simon Williams in that county during or just at the close of the Revolution.

We believe Phoebe Pruitt was right when she said she was born in Virginia; her grandson may have been mistaken about Culpeper County.

If she was correct, then Simon and his young family moved from Virginia to Rowan County, N. Car. probably late in 1781 or early in 1782, and lived there until 1790 and probably until around 1801, then moved to Warren County, Kentucky. We shall probably never know the names of Simon's parents nor of Polly Ann's. Here is the roll-call of their family:-

Simon Williams, b. Oct. 17, 1753, probably in Virginia; d. in Posey or Vanderburg County, Indiana, some time after July 17, 1834

Polly Ann . . . (Maybe Bennett); b. Sept. 4, 1759, probably in Virginia; md. Simon around 1778 or 1779; she d. in Posey or Vanderburg some time after September 21, 1821, but before July 17, 1834.

Their 14 children:-

1) "Polly" Betsy Williams; b. March 5, 1780. Our version of the family record says she md. a Payne. But records at Bowling Green, Ky., list the marriage of Polly Williams to William Harmon in 1803. Now Eleanor Williams (see 4 below) md. Lewis Harmon, and usually such cases mean that sisters married brothers (or brother and sister md. brother and sister). That is not proof; but we know that William Harmon and his wife Polly moved to Posey or Vanderburg along with Lewis Harmon and his wife Eleanor; and that William and Polly had a son named Simon. Perhaps Polly Williams had married Payne and been widowed young, and was recorded under her maiden surname when she married William Harmon. (Another case where a young widow made her second marriage under her maiden name will come up in a moment.) In any case, we are taking the chance and are considering the Polly Williams who md. William Harmon to be the oldest child of Simon. They had a large family - 9 boys and 1 girl -

~~2) xRxxxx~~ in the 1830 census. Their son Simon, b. in 1808, d. in 1842; buried in the old Williams cemetery, a mile southwest of Cynthiana.

✓2) Phoebe Williams, b. Feb. 6, 1781; md. Moses Pruitt in Warren County,

in 1805. Had 9 children; record will be given farther on. Moses Pruitt d. Apr. 6, 1839; Phoebe in 1858. A great company of their descendants were buried at Calvert's Chapel. The Pruitt surname is spelled variously - Prewitt, Prout. The founder of the family in America was a French Huguenot, Roger Prout, exiled from France because of being a Protestant.

✓3) Bennett Williams, b. March 22, 1782; md. Polly (Mary) Martin in Warren County, Ky., Dec. 27, 1806; were settled in Posey County by 1814. He d. July 24, 1837; she d. Nov. 4, 1847. Their graves are in a small family graveyard located on the farm that they once owned, about two miles southwest of Cynthiana. They had 13 children, their youngest daughter, Matilda, being our grandmother Mangrum (1828-1912). A record of their family will be given farther on.

✓4) Eleanor Williams, b. Feb. 22, 1783; md. Lewis Harmon in Warren County, Ky. in 1805. They came to Indiana before ¹⁸²⁰1850. Records of Posey, Gibson and Vanderburg ~~xxx~~ have many Harmon's - Bennett, George, Holmer, John, Robert, Samuel, Simon, and others - but who were sons of William and who were sons of Lewis we shall never know. Merely, a whole regiment of Simon Williams's descendants, our very distant cousins, became so blended with the mass of humanity that nobody is ever likely to identify them.

✓5) George Harrison Williams, b. May 15, 1784; d. March 8, 1850, in Posey County. On August 3, 1819, according to our old family records, he married Audrey Journey; but that is a slight mistake. Her maiden name had been Audrey Journey; in June, 1817, she had married Ralph Martin. (Was he still another son of our Elder James Martin? We do not know.) He was killed by lightning; and so George Harrison Williams really married Mrs. Ralph Martin. Audrey was b. in Mason County, Ky., daughter of Joseph Journey. She was b. in 1797 and d. in 1887; the Big Creek Church minutes made quite a point of the fact that she had belonged to that church 69 years. A record of the family of George and Audrey will be given farther on. Church clerks and county officers invented a dozen ways of spelling her

first name. Whenever you find in the records or on tombstones a first name "Ordery" or something like that, it's a safe bet that here was either a descendant or at least a namesake of Audrey Journey. (Our late neighbor at Locust Hill, Mrs. Audrey Burke, was a grand-daughter.) ~~xx~~ Where did those early settlers come from? And what strange urge or what mere chance brought them to Indiana territory, to marry into families they had never known until they came to the Wabash woods? About a mile and a half west of Cynthiana, and half a mile north of the Cynthiana-Poseyville road, hidden in a mott of trees away back in a field, is the old Nesbit family bury-ing ground, which contains the graves of Hannah Journey (1786-1862) wife of James Nesbit (1785-1874), and of Margaret Journey (1792-1845), wife of Ellison Gale (1794-1855). These were probably sisters of Audrey.

George Harrison Williams seems to have been something of a partner of our great-grandfather Bennett in their land ventures: they made joint entry of land ~~in~~ near their father's in 1814, and there are several deeds in which they had a joint interest. This was to lead, after Bennett's death, to an unhappy, long-drawn-out lawsuit between our fiery great-grandmother, Polly Martin Williams, and her brother-in-law George - the story of which will come a little later.

(6) Sarah William, b. Feb. 26, 1786; md. in 1805 in Warren County, Ky., to James Martin, Jr. It appears that they moved to Indiana about the same time as Elder James Martin, Sr., - around 1808. They took up land west of Owensville. James Martin, Jr. died in 1825; a note about his children appears under the Martin heading. His widow, Sarah, md. William Steel in 1828. no further record of her.

(7) Lewis Williams, b. March 15, 1789 according to one record; but the 1850 census makes his birth-year 1787. He married Eleanor Oates in Warren County, Ky., Jan. 10, 1810. He entered a tract of government land adjoining that of his brothers in 1817. Was ordained a baptist minister in Big Creek Church. He lived for a time in De Witt County, Illinois, then returned to Posey County. Spent the last years of his life near Poseyville; d. 1864

8) Mary Williams, b. Nov. 8, 1791; md. . . . Greene. We have not found the marriage record in either Kentucky or Indiana, nor any trace of this couple. The surname Greene appears on two gravestones in Calvert Chapel cemetery, and once on a deed in northeastern Posey County, dated in the 1830's, but these are no proof.

9) Winifred Williams, b. Jan. 10, 1793, md. . . . Johnson. Notice that her younger sister Anne md. George W. Johnson (1788-1865) in Posey County. Usually one would expect this to be another case of sisters marrying brothers, and so it may be here, but we have only the probability, not any proof.

10) William Williams, b. Aug. 15, 1794; md. Sept. 10, 1812, to Martha Allen in Warren County. They moved to Posey County by 1821. William was a penitent member of Big Creek Baptist Church, much given to humble confession of his shortcomings. He died some time before 1850; his wife Martha in 1864.

11) Enoch Williams; one record differs from his gravestone as to time of his birth; if gravestone is correct he appears to have been a twin with John, b. March 8, 1796. On Jan. 25, 1819, he married Lydia Lowe (1792-1871), second child of William and Nancy Lowe, founders of all the Lowe families in Posey and Gibson. A record of William and Nancy's children will be given farther on. William and Nancy joined Big Creek Church by letter in October, 1818. Some of their children married into these pioneer families: Covett, Endicott, Kimball, Allen. It appears that the Lowes, the Endicotts, the Nesbits and the Allens all came from Harrison County, Ky. Enoch Williams died Sept. 2, 1843; Lydia in 1871.

12) John Williams b. March 8, 1796; md. to Henrietta Henson after moving to Posey. He d. in 1837.

13) Anne Williams, b. Nov. 8, 1798; md. to George W. Johnson after coming to Indiana. She d. Dec. 25, 1825, at the birth of her son Levi. Omitting Mary and Winifred, of whom we know nothing, this was the first

death among Simon's children.

14) Jemima Williams, b. Jan. 8, 1800; md. Joseph Cater in 1817 in Posey County. (The name is Cater, not Garter.) The Caters, a large family, came to Indiana at some time in the second decade of the century. There were several families of that name in the 1830 and 1840 censuses; thus far we have no record of Joseph and Jemima's children. He. d. in 1859; she in 1864.

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There were several other Williams families in Warren County, Ky., during our Simon's stay there, and though it is highly probable that he was related to some of them, we have no proof. There was a younger Simon Williams, who stayed on in Warren County down through the 1830's; he may have been a nephew of our Simon - but we have no proof. Wills, deeds, scores of court orders touching various Williamses in Warren County fail to show the needed clue.

In review: three of Simon's sons and four of his daughters married in Warren County, and all seven couples moved to Gibson or Posey or Vanderburg. We feel sure they did not all move at one time. Simon and his wife and (we suppose) their unmarried children came to Posey either late in 1813 or very early in 1814; Simon made entry on his quarter-section of government land in Posey on March 28, 1814 - the N W $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 14, Twp 4 S, R 12 W - about two miles southwest of Cynthiana. Of the married sons, Bennett (with his still single brother George) entered the N E $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 15, adjoining their father's entry ~~ix~~ on July 20, 1814; and they jointly entered the N W $\frac{1}{4}$ of the same section in December that year. In 1817, Lewis entered a quarter of Section 12, adjoining. Moses Pruitt was in Vanderburg by 1818; William and Lewis Harmon ~~by~~ were in Gibson or Posey by 1830. James Martin Jr. had probably come with his father around 1808. Three of Simon's sons married in local pioneer families after they came to Indiana, as did also his two youngest daughters. And there is slightly better than an even chance that Mary Greene and Winifred Johnson also lived within a half-day's horseback ride of their

parents.

The minutes of the Big Creek Baptist Church are tantalizing; they omit so many details we'd like to know. The clerks apparently worked on the theory: "What sense is there in recording a simple fact that everybody knows?" Now every member knew that at some monthly meeting in 1814 or early in 1815 Brother Bennett Williams joined the church - probably by letter: so why record it? The first intimation in the minutes is the statement for the March meeting in 1815: Brother Bennett Williams is chosen deacon. And in July the same year he is chosen treasurer. And that's the way of the minutes: some accessions are recorded, other are taken for granted. Clearly Bennett Williams had been well experienced in the duties of a church member before he joined Big Creek Church, and his father likewise was familiar with Baptist usage. Judge Herdis Clements, of Mt. Vernon, a descendant of Lewis Williams, thinks that Simon was an ordained preacher. Maybe so, but the minutes give no evidence of it. But Simon was a staunch workhorse in the church, and for many years he and his son Bennett were likely to be on almost every important committee - especially on a committee appointed to "labor with" some straying brother.

In May, 1821, Lewis and his wife Eleanor joined the church by letter; in June William Williams, and Moses and Phoebe Pruitt; and in July, Joseph and Jemima Cater. There was no meeting-house as late as 1821, the congregation meeting at the homes of various members - twice, it is recorded, at the home of Simon Williams; but by August, 1822, the first log meeting-house was practically finished, and the members voted "to chink and plaster, fix seats and ~~pulpits~~ Pulpit and windows and furnish a table in our meeting-house."

They were so terribly earnest about it all, and at least some of them had the humility to confess their faults. Brother William Williams "entered a complaint against himself for getting angry and striving to fight." Poor Brother William had his weakness and was often charged - or charged himself, with wrong; was sometimes disciplined even to expulsion, but was always forgiven. We may smile at what we consider the old-fashioned severity; but there was

such a beautiful earnestness. They had the dignity of independence. For instance, in the spring of 1825 some member raised the difficult question whether the Three Persons of the Trinity are equal. Without knowing that brother, we can be sure of one thing: he was prompted by his own heart and mind, and to him that question was of tremendous importance. The church appointed a committee of three to consider the matter - and two of the three were our great-great-grandfather Simon and our great-grandfather Bennett Williams. How did they go about to determine the matter? Hardly by writing and asking the opinion of any editor, nor were there any bishops to lay down the law, nor were there probably any authoritative works of theology to read. Not in the Wabash woods. I imagine they read great passages in the Bible, over and over again, and prayed about the problem, singly and all three together; and that each man of them wrestled the question in his mind, day after day, as he sweated in his little fields. In June they asked permission to postpone their report - and so on through the summer. But at the September meeting they had agreed upon what seemed to them the truth: they reported that the Three Persons of the Trinity are indeed equal, and ~~thax skuxzh~~ "took the voice of the church in the affirmative." To them it made a great difference what a man believed.

Two or three times in the course of more than a century a clerk would set down on pages apart from the minutes some of the deaths he could remember; but that sort of record is always liable to leave out many facts. For example, ~~xxxxxjuly xxxxxxxxjulyxxxxx~~ on July 8, 1837, Brother Bennett Williams was appointed on a committee to get seats made; on August 12 Brother Lewis Williams is appointed to assist Brother George Lowe in getting those seats made - and not one word in the minutes to mention the death of Bennett Williams. We know the date from family records, ~~xxxxxxx~~. Missing a familiar name from the minutes, we could only guess and wonder. The last reference to Simon Williams (Simon Sr., to distinguish him from his grandson Simon) was written in April, 1831, yet we know he lived more than

three years longer. The 1830 census lists Simon as between 70 and 80, which was correct; it credits his house with "one female" - an unmannerly way of referring to anybody's great-great-grandmother - "one female" between 60 and 70. Now Polly Ann, born in the fall of 1759, was really a little past 70; but in the loose-bracketed methods of an early census, a year or two more or less on anybody's age was considered close enough. In 1821 Polly Ann had joined Simon in granting a deed to son John. On July 17, 1834, Simon Williams Sr. (to distinguish him from his grandson Simon) again deeded land to son John, but this time he was the only grantor - evidence that Polly Ann had died some time after the 1830 census was taken. This is only conjecture, but it may be that when Simon's name disappears from Big Creek minutes after April, 1831, his wife had died and he had gone to live with a son or a daughter ~~was~~ beyond the neighborhood of Big Creek Church. By the way, in that 1830 census they had in their home a boy under 10, who may have been a grandson borrowed for company, or an orphaned grandson. Anne Johnson, dying in 1825, left a son, Levi; or the child may have ~~been~~ belonged to Mary Greene or Winifred Johnson. That deed of Simon's, dated July 17, 1834, is the last record we have found of him. Like Lieut. Colonel James Martin, and William Mangrum Sr., and Jesse Douglas, he rests in an unmarked grave.

The Family of Bennett and Polly Martin Williams

Any reader of the church minutes, though a stranger to the the family story, would single Bennett out as the best loved and trusted member. And when the church clerk wrote of some appointment, designated him as "our beloved Brother Bennett Williams", the simple warmth of the words sounds sincere in that plain, unemotional book. But we have something better to go by than the church minutes. Our grandmother Matilda Williams Mangrum was only nine when her father (Bennett) died, but she passed down to her descendants the tradition of the sound goodness that was in her father. Polly Martin Williams survived her husband ten years, and our grandmother Matilda's mind and heart were

suffused with the strong nature and spirited character of her mother.

How many instances have you known where a great-grandmother shone so clearly in the minds of her descendants as did Polly Martin Williams, a century after her death ? And mind you, her quality was all transmitted through the words of Grandmother Mangrum. ((I had never heard of Polly Martin until 1911; now it seems to me I cannot remember a time when I did not know of her.))

Here are the 13 children of Bennett and Polly Martin Williams:-
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1) John Williams, b. Feb. 15, 1808; d. Feb. 17, 1846; md. July 15, 1825 to Elizabeth Allen (1809-1901) (youthful marriage, but the figures are correct.) Had 3 sons, 4 daughters. Record of family given later.

2) Millie Williams, b. Feb. 10, 1810; d. Aug. 30, 1902, in Posey County; md. July 31, 1828 to Aaron Murphy (1809-1878). Aunt Millie (really Amelia) Williams must have had plenty of her mother's get-up-and-get. She and her next younger sister Elizabeth joined the Big Creek Church in May, 1828; it took Aunt Millie a little more than three years to bring her husband Aaron Murphy into the fold, but she brought him ! They lived by Wadesville, in Posey. Aunt Millie's Murphy's grand part in relation to the baby Rachel Ewing will appear on another page. Aaron and Millie had 10 children, who will be listed farther on. R. E. J. remembers that Aunt Millie Murphy always wore black lace caps; she also remembers that once when Aunt Millie and one or two of her children drove twenty-five miles from Wadesville to spend the day with "Dave and Mary" (Father and Mother Epperson), they had early supper and Aunt Millie Murphy was ready to start home, when Father Epperson absent-mindedly shook hands with her and said, "Well, Aunt Millie, how d'ye do ?" We have commented to one another on the wonderful ties of affection that bound our Grandmother Matilda to her brothers and sisters. Aunt Millie Murphy, Aunt Elizabeth Yeager, Aunt Sallie Brumfield - these were truly household names.

3) Simon Williams Jr., b. Jan. 20, 1812; d. Sept. 30, 1872. He md. Lavina Sharer about 1840. Three of their children are buried in the Bennett Williams plot, north of the Cynthiana-Poseyville road about two miles southwest of Cynthiana. Their son Newton, b. in 1843, was a soldier in Co. F, 80th Regt. Indiana Volunteers - Captain James Epperson's company. Newton died in the service in 1863.

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4 and 5) Twins, Obedience and Fanny, b. Feb. 15, 1814. Obedience died about 1840 in 1824. Fanny married Henry Ewing. (Two men with surname Ewin, probably brothers of his, are buried at Calvert's Chapel.) Unhappily, Henry Ewing became a drunkard. Our grandmother Matilda Williams Mangrum went with her mother, Polly Martin Williams, to the Ewing home when their sister and daughter, Fanny, died (June 1, 1946). Finding Ewing helplessly drunk, they ~~took~~ rescued the baby, Rachel, and the little boy, John. Matilda and her mother took care of the baby until Polly Martin Williams's death in November, 1847. Then Aunt Millie Murphy took the little girl and reared her. After Matilda married our grandfather, John Neely Mangrum, they took the boy John Ewing (b. 1841) into their home; he lived with them until he ran away from home to join the Union army. Mother Epperson was fond of him, a sort of older brother.

6) James Martin Williams, b. April 22, 1816; d. Oct. 12, 1847.

(Notice how Polly Martin managed to give good ^{names} Martin ~~xxxx~~ to many of her children.) He md. Julia Ann McDonald in 1842. And here is a true story which we give as Grandmother Mangrum passed it on:- her brother James was to have married Mary Yeager, but there was a lovers' quarrel just a few days before the intended day, and sister Matilda remembered how brother James came home and quietly announced that they needn't ^{starch and iron} fix his best shirt - there would be no wedding. Later, he married, but Mary Yeager never did. And more than sixty years later, R. E. J., then teaching school in the neighborhood, went to call on Mary Yeager, who told her, "You're too beautiful a girl to spend your life teaching other people's children." The neighbors used to observe that

Mary Yeager used to stand at the front gate at sunset, keeping a sort of ritual sixty years after that quarrel. James Martin Williams was buried in the small Bennett Williams plot. A brief record of his children will appear farther on.

7) Sarah (Sally) Williams b. July 28, 1818; d. Feb. 14, 1907; md. James Brumfield (1817-1886). Their ^{oldest} ~~second~~ child, Mary, married our Uncle Uriah Epperson. James Brumfield was a son of David ~~xxxxxx~~ (1786-1836) and Mary (1786-1869) Brumfield (or Broomfield, as it was often spelled) who lived in Vanderburg, in the neighborhood of Calvert's Chapel. A record of the family will appear farther on. When Polly Martin Williams, Sarah's mother, died in 1847, James and Sarah Brumfield took Bailey Williams, then 14, into their home. James and Sarah still glow with a warmth of goodness, long after they died.

8) Nancy Williams, b. Feb. 15, 1821; d. Jan. 1860; md. Calvin Drysdale. They had ⁶ ~~5~~ children, of whom ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{one} Mary, celebrate her hundredth birthday in 1948. Their son James Drysdale ~~xxx~~ was killed in the Civil War. Nancy Williams Drysdale died comparatively young, and the Drysdales lived farther from the home neighborhood, so memories are lost. A record of the family will be given later.

9) Elizabeth Williams, b. May 30, 1823; d. Nov. 12, 1915; md. Absalom Yeager (1820-1901) ^{in 1842}. He was a son of Joel Yeager & and his wf. Hannah McDonald; both were born in Virginia, and came the usual route through the Cumberlands and Kentucky to Indiana. When Polly Martin Williams died in November, 1847, Matilda and her two younger brothers, Bailey and Silas, were left without a home. Matilda went to live with sister Elizabeth Yeager until her own marriage in January, 1849. The Yeagers had a sizeable & marrying family, who will be catalogued farther on.

10) Matthew Elias Williams, b. Oct. 15, 1825; d. Nov. 9, 1838.

11) Matilda Williams, b. Feb. 23, 1828; d. Feb. 1, 1912; md. John Neely Menzies, Jan. 4, 1849. She and grandfather and their family will

have a chapter farther on. But over and over again, let those of her descendants who never knew her understand: there was a deep power in her that made her a natural law-giver, not through assertiveness nor by any conscious dramatic quality, but through quiet but staunch goodness. Elizabeth Marshall Martin, back there in Revolutionary days, would have been proud of this grand-daughter.

12) Silas Williams, b. Aug. 4, 1830; d. May 26, 1901; md. about 1853 Sarah Jane Marks. Family record later. Their son John died in June, 1948, last of the family.

13) Bailey Williams, b. Nov. 9, 1853; d. April 10, 1909; md. Margaret Blythe, oldest daughter of James and Elvia Mangrum Blythe. (From what ancestor did that name Bailey come? Remember that Bailey's uncle, James Martin Jr., named one of his sons Bailey. Is it a Martin or a Williams heirloom?)

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P. S. Turn back for a moment to p. Wm -14-, to Nancy Williams and Calvin Drysdale's family; and especially to Mary Drysdale who celebrated her 100th birthday in Evansville in 1948. The centenarian lady recalled that her brother James Drysdale had a beautiful yellow saddle horse which he had trained to step in time to music. James wanted to join the cavalry and take the horse to war with him, but the army officers refused because the horse would be too conspicuous. So James Drysdale enlisted in the infantry, and died of wounds he received at the Battle of Murfreesboro. And the beautiful saddle horse was sold for \$250, which was considered a great price in those days - but I wonder whether he ever stepped so proudly for any other owner. That Battle of Murfreesboro, fought on the last day of 1862 and the first of 1863, was called Stone River in some of the history books. It would have been a pity if I had lost the newspaper clipping of 1948 that told about that beautiful horse and the boy who trained him. The horse and the young trainer sort of shine in the mind.

Bennett Williams drew his will July 21, 1837, three days before he died. He appointed his wife Polly and his oldest son John Marshall Williams executors. Witnesses were his brother-in-law Patrick Calvert, and G. W. Lindsay. The will was principally concerned that the three minor sons - Matthew Elias, Silas, and Bailey - should inherit the land after the death of their mother. The older sons - John Marshall, Simon, and James Martin - had already received a main part of their share, but to equalize all portions the minor sons were to pay their older brothers \$150 when they (the younger ones) finally had their inheritance. The six daughters who were living when the will was drawn were to share the personal property upon their mother's death.

Matthew Elias died the next year after his father, his share of the land being divided between Silas and Bailey. And then by the middle 1840's came an unhappy lawsuit. Bennett's will, it must be admitted, was very vague in some particulars; he did not specify what land he owned, though it appears he still owned jointly with his brother George at least one quarter-section on which they had made joint entry in 1814; and the arrangement between him and George may have been equally vague, a matter of good will in the minds rather than anything specified in writing. In any case, Polly Martin Williams found that her boys, Silas and Bailey, were going to have trouble getting their land. In a suit in chancery in the March term of court at Mt. Vernon she and the two boys sued to compel George and Audrey to make a deed that would clear to the two boys their father's rightful share of that land. By a legal fiction Polly and the boys had to sue everybody concerned: not only Uncle George and Audrey, but all the older brothers and sisters - from John Marshall down to Matilda, including the husbands of the married sisters. Of course George and Audrey were the real target; and doubtless Audrey had no say in the matter: the stubborn real defendant was George. (The copyist who, long ago, copied the record in the big dusty old book, recorded Audrey as "Andrew." He just couldn't imagine anybody having a name like "Audrey".)

And so, in March, 1845, the court ordered George and Audrey to make that deed, and allowed them ninety days to make it - or else. And they - or maybe just George - wouldn't. The record does not tell a smidgin of his reasons - merely, he just wouldn't. And after it became clear that he wouldn't, the court ordered John Marshall Williams, oldest son of Bennett and, with his mother, joint executor, to make that deed. And just then, John Marshall Williams died (Feb. 17, 1846). Whereupon the court authorized one James G. Jones, as special commissioner, to make that deed; and in the March term, 1846, he reported that he had done so; and the matter was settled. But not forgotten. Our grandmother Matilda was seventeen when the suit was brought in chancery, and eighteen when it ended. Next year her valiant mother, Polly Martin, would pass on, and Matilda's girlhood home would be closed forever. In 1850 stubborn Uncle George would turn in his last account to heaven. Now grandmother Matilda was too good a Christian to cherish enmity; all the same, her daughters and her grandchildren know that she had a firm character and that she did not like mean persons who continued stubbornly mean. To the end of her days she did not like a certain Williams cousin, and maybe that was because she saw too much of his father in him. Matilda had a world of character, due partly, no doubt, to the fact that she was her mother's right hand during the ten years after her father died.

Matilda used to say that her share of her father's estate was one heifer. It would be a modern success story to tell how she "ran" that heifer into a million dollars, but we'd rather have her as she was - honest and just and wise.

Supplementary record of Family of Simon and Polly Ann Williams:-

William Harmon (md. Polly Williams); Lewis Harmon (md. Eleanor Williams). The 1820 census lists Lewis and his family in Gibson, with 4 boys, 3 girls, and one aged woman, beside himself and his wife. The 1830 census still lists the 4 sons, but only 1 daughter. Two of the daughters, being old enough, had evidently married off. The 1850 census finds Lewis Harmon, age 78, living in the home of Richard Simpson (54) and Elizabeth his wife (44), and their 5 children. Fair supposition (but not proof) that Elizabeth Simpson was a daughter of Lewis Harmon - his oldest.

William Harmon was listed in Posey in 1830; he and his wife have 9 sons and 1 daughter. It is practically certain that Simon Harmon (1808-1842) was their son; deeds between him and William afford good proof of that.

The 1850 census brings in a good-sized company of Harmon's who should be sons of William and Lewis. There are a William Jr. and a Lewis Jr., and some of the forenames of sons give pretty strong proof that these were our kin: Andrew ~~Harmon~~ Harmon had sons Ewing and Bailey; Lucy Harmon (a widow) had a son Simon; James Harmon had a son Bennett. But that is as far as we can go with any assurance.

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MOSES PRUITT (d. Apr. 6, 1839) md. Phoebe Williams in Warren County, Ky., 1805. Moved to Indiana in 1812; I believe they lived in Vanderburg, certainly near Calvert's Chapel. Their 9 children:

- i) John Pruitt (1806-1874) md. Mahala Green
- ii) William Pruitt (1807-1870) md. Elizabeth A. Spain (1813-1870)
- iii) Emmeline Pruitt
- iv) Elvira Pruitt
- v) Mary Pruitt (1812-1872) was the second wife of Isaiah Wilkinson (1814-1885). He was a grandson of William Mangrum Sr.; and so our Williams and our Mangrum ancestors began to be attracted.
- vi) Simon Pruitt (1815-1850) md. Mary E. Gray
- vii) Martha Pruitt (1815-1850) ~~md~~ was first wife of Prettyman Montgomery.
- viii) Elizabeth Pruitt (1820-1881) md. Sam Montgomery; lived in Logan Co., Ill.
- ix) Juliet Pruitt (1823-1892) md. Absalom Redman, son of Robert Redman and his wife Anne ~~Smith~~ Smith. This Absalom was a first-cousin of our grandma Naomi Jane Epperson. Further, this Absalom and Juliet were the grandparents of G. M. Cleveland. From here on, things get more complicated.

Amos C. Wilkinson (1826-1891), a nephew of Isaiah, md. about 1850 Nancy K. Pruitt (1827-1902). I do not know whether she was a daughter of John or William or Simon. As I wrote a moment ago, from here on, things get more complicated. And still more.

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Family of George and Audrey Journey Martin Williams; from his will, probated in March, 1850, supplemented with other records:-

- 1) Thornton Williams (1820-1894) md. (1) Julia Smith; (2) Maria Robinson; (3) Jane

(Family of George and Audrey Williams, cont.)

- ii) James Ferry Williams (1823-1906) md. Free love J. Gibson
- iii) Asbury Williams (1824-1883) md. Pauline Scyle
Their son, Dr. Wm. S. Williams (1855-1880)
- iv) Martha Ann Williams md. . . . Yeager
- v) Romelia B. Williams (1829-1876) md. Elizabeth . . . (1833-1924)

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Family of Lewis Williams (1787-1864) and wife Eleanor Cates; md. in Warren Co., Ky., Jan. 20, 1810. Eleanor was b. in S. Car. in 1792; she survived her husband.

Here is an imperfect record of their family as derived from census of 1850 and his will (dr. Apr. 7, 1864), supplemented by notes from one source or another. These names may not be in the right order, and there are some discrepancies:-

Simon Williams (1816-1860) md. Sarah Boucher Spilman (1821-1912)
Elizabeth Williams md. Wm. Gambrel Jr.
James Williams md. Nancy Smith
Ferry A. Williams

da. Audrey b. abt. 1831, named in 1850 census; not named in will
unless by some other forename.

" Nancy, b. abt. 1833; like Audrey, named in census, but not in will
unless by some other name

The will names as daughters, Perrella Malone and Cvelia Cleveland;
the will names a grandson, Simon S. Williams; and 2 grand-daughters
Nancy C. Williams and Halmida I. Endicott. One document also mentions
a daughter (not naming her) who md. Sam Redman. It is known that
Lewis Williams had land in DeWitt County, Illinois, and that he lived
there a short time; he has descendants living in Clinton, Illinois.

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ENOCH WILLIAMS md. Lydia Lowe Jan. 25, 1819, in Posey County. He d.
Sept. 2, 1843. Their six children:

- i) William H. Williams, b. Jan. 13, 1820; md. (1) Mary Meadows;
(2) Mrs. Margaret McMunn Barton. He d. March 23, 1886; bur.
at Mt. Pleasant cemetery, Posey County.
- ii) Harrison Williams, b. Jan. 1, 1825; md. Malvina V. McReynolds;
he d. July 16, 1878; bur. at Mt. Pleasant
- iii) Rodman Williams moved to Pike County
- iv) Matilda Williams b. 1830; md. George Eaton
- v) Lucinda Williams, b. 1833; md. Alfred McReynolds
- vi) John Williams, b. 1834, moved to Pike County.

Family of William and Nancy Lowe; they came from Maryland to Harrison County, Kentucky, at some time between the births of Lydia (1792) and George (1794). Do not know precise date when they came to Indiana; but they joined Big Creek Church by letter in October, 1818. William died in 1832. Nancy's maiden surname may have been Littleton; they gave that name to one son.

Their 9 children:-

- i) Nancy Lowe (1788-1854) md. Andrew Cavett
- ii) Lydia Lowe (~~1792~~ 1792-1871) md. Enoch Williams, 1819, in Posey County
- iii) George Lowe (1794-1862) md. Susan Endicott. The Endicotts were one of the strongest families in the Big Creek Church.
- iv) Phyllis Lowe (1797-1882) md. Isaac Kimbell
- v) Setsy Lowe (1802-1852) md. Avery Allen
- vi) Littleton Lowe (1807-1882) md. in 1829 Patricia (or Patience) Allen
- vii) Polly Lowe md. Charles Whiting in 1824
- viii) Wm Lowe Jr. md Emily Whiting in 1829
- ix) Sarah Lowe md. Eaton

Will some one else take it from there ? The Lowe names are plentiful; but who will connect the Lowes of the period from 1850 on, with the Lowes on the above list?

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JOHN WILLIAMS (1796-1837) md. Henrietta Henson in Indiana. His will was dr. May 31, 1836; prob. Feb. 8, 1837; He names 5 sons: John, George, James, William, and Benjamin; and 2 daughters: Minna Milenda, and Anna. His executors were Henry Hunter and John Johnson; the latter may have been the husband of Winifred Williams. Witnesses were James C. and Joseph Endicott - evidence that John Williams lived in the Endicott neighborhood, and that was not far from Big Creek Church.

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GEORGE W. JOHNSON, (b. 1788) md. Anna Williams (1798-1825) in Posey County. She d. Dec. 25, 1825. Their two children:

- Johnson
- 1) Eliza ~~Williams~~ b. 1823, md. Austin Rutter
- ii) Levi Johnson, b. 1825, d. 1904; md. Louisa Smith

(Tartt's History of Gibson County says there were three children, but if so the name of the other one is unknown)

This George W. Johnson fought in the Indian Wars, presumably at Tippecanoe.

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JOSEPH CATER md. Jemima, 14th child of Simon Williams, Oct. 16, 1817. Joseph d. in 1859, Jemima in 1864. She (and I suppose Joseph also) buried at the old Williams Cemetery, a mile southwest of Cynthiana. At least five Caters are buried in the main cemetery at Cynthiana. Of these, Daniel (1819-1876) could have been a son of Joseph and Jemima. The wife of William W. Montgomery was Jemima E. Cater (1814-1923). The most puzzling

gravestone is that of T. R. Cater in the Old Williams Cemetery; he was commander of the 3d Kentucky Cavalry. Surely he was related to Joseph and Jemima. A son? But how came an Indiana man to lead a Kentucky regiment? And how many sons and daughters had Joseph and Jemima? And the hardest question of all: how many descendants has Simon Williams up to 1950?

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Family of Bennett and Polly Martin Williams:-

JOHN MARSHALL WILLIAMS (1808-1846) md. Elizabeth Allen (1809-1901)

- i) Melissa Letitia Williams md (1) Hollehan; (2) May ;(3) Isaac P. Cox
- ii) James Williams md. Nancy Eaton
- iii) Bennett Williams Jr. (1835-1891) md. Zerelda Allen (1840-1891)
- iv) Mary Elizabeth Williams md. (1) Whiting; (2) Sharp
- v) Nancy Williams md. Richard Daugherty
- vi) Leroy Williams md. Liza Fletcher
- vii) Zerelda Williams (1845-1932 md. George W. Wade (1833-1915)

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AARON MURPHY (1809-1878) md. Amelia (Millie) Williams (1810-1902)

- i) Elias Murphy b. 1830; md. Frances Ramsay
- ii) Mary (Polly) Murphy md. James Henry Cox
- iii) Keziah Murphy md. Thomas Shelton
- iv) Martha Ann Murphy md. Eli Wade
- v) Sarah Murphy md. Joseph Cox
- vi) Elizabeth Murphy md. William Kight (a clerk copying the will wrongly spells this Knight.)
- vii) John Murphy md. Louise
- viii) Aaron Thomas Murphy, b. June 21, 1848; md. Amanda Baker
- ix) Joseph Murphy md. Olivia Gwaltney
- x) Bennett Murphy md. La Myra McDonald.

In 1850 Elias M and Frances Murphy had a son also named Aaron Thomas. He was called Little Tom to distinguish him from his uncle, Big Tom.

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SIMON WILLIAMS Jr. (1812-1872) md. Lavinia Shearer

- i) Newton Williams b. 1843; member of Co. F. 8oth Regt. Indiana Volunteers (Captain James Epperson's company); d. at Elizabethtown Kentucky, March 16, 1863
- ii) Susan Jane Williams, b. March 16, 1852; d. Jan 7, 1944; md. in 1877 James Valentine Emerson.
Their son, Charles N. Emerson v) Dr. John Williams of Owensville
- iii) Mary Williams, d. in Infancy, 1854
- iv) Elizabeth Williams, d. 1862, age 5 months.

Newton, Mary and Elizabeth are buried in the small Bennett Williams graveyard, two miles southwest of Cynthia. The above list of children may not be complete.

HENRY EWING md. Fannie Williams (1814-1846)

John Ewing, their son, was brought up by our grandfather and grandmother Joh Neely and Matilda Mangrum. After his return from the Civil War he married Eliza Boren; they had 3 children: Artemesa, Ehtel, and Fannie.

Rachel Ewing, a mere baby when her mother died, was brought up, first by her grandmother Polly Martin Williams and her aunt Matilda; then by her Aunt and uncle, Milie and Aaron Murphy. She married George Wade, and had two daughters, Grace and Emma.

JAMES WILLIAMS (1816-1847) md. **Julia Ann McDonald**. Their 4 children:-

- i) Elias Williams, b. Sept. 20, 1843
- ii) Amanda Williams, B. Oct. 27, 1844; was first wife of Jasper Linzy;
d. 1866
- iii) John Williams, b. Dec. 16, 1845
- iv) Elizabeth Williams, b. Sept 20, 1847

JAMES BRUMFIELD (1817-1886) md. Sarah Williams (1818-1907)

- i) Mary (1840-1921) md. Uriah C. Epperson (1838-1924)
- ii) John Brumfield ~~xxxx~~ b. abt. 1842 ; never md.
- iii) Richard Brumfield (1844-1909) md. Matilda Knowles (1846-1921)
- iv) Melinda Brumfield, b. abt. 1846; d. young.
- v) ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxBrumfieldxxxxxxvixvixvixvixvixvix~~
- v) ~~xx~~ Rachel Brumfield, b abt. 1848; never md.
- vi) Matilda Brumfield, b. abt. 1850; never md.
- vii) James Brumfield , b. abt. 1851; never md.
- viii) William Brumfield, b. abt. 1856; never md.
- ix) Sarah Brumfield, b. abt. 1859; md. Dr. Ballard

Ages calculated from 1850 and 1860 censuses. (Melinda included in 1850 census, not in 1860.) ~~Rickard's~~ Great-uncle James Brumfield was known by his own and his wife's pronunciation of his name as "Uncle Jeems". Bailey Williams, then 17, was making his home with them in 1850. David Brumfield (or Broomfield) (1785-1836) and his wife Mary (1786-1869) were in northwestern Vanderburg County early. On Oct. 2, 1818, Patrick Calvert and Sarah sold to Moses Prewitt (so spelled in the deed) some land on Sig Creek; witnesses, David Broomfield and Joseph Cator.

David and Mary Brumfield had a son William (1826-1863), who married Ann Elizabeth somebody (1828-1854). These four were buried at Calvert's Chapel. At Owensville is the grave of Mary Ann Brumfield (1841-1916), wife of Smith Mounts. She was not a daughter of James and Sarah (above), nor of William and Ann Elizabeth; therefore Uncle Jeemz must have had at least one more brother.

Richard and Matilda (above) lived in a tall old house that stood out over the fields a mile southeast of Locust Hill - the home of our childhood; and their children were our playmates in the country school. The fact that they were our second-cousins was nothing to wonder at; in whatever direction we looked, we saw second-cousins - unless they happened to be first-cousins.

The Family of Richard and Matilda Brumfield:-

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|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| i) | Henry Brumfield, (1866-1888) | |
| ii) | Laura Brumfield, b. 1868 - | md. Isaac Epperson |
| iii) | Ella Brumfield (1871- | md. William Armstrong |
| iv) | Rosina Brumfield (1873- | md. Charles Patrick |
| v) | John A. Brumfield (1875-1940) | md. Myrtle Smith |
| vi) | Victor Brumfield (1876- | md. Linda Kight |
| vii) | Mamie Brumfield, (1878 - | md. Stephen Smith |
| viii) | Melvin Brumfield (1882 -1922) | md. Merle Beresford |
| <i>Mrs. fma</i> ix) | Willard Brumfield (1884- | md. Effie |
| x) | Florence Brumfield 1886- | md. Armstrong |
| xi) | Clara Brumfield (1888- | md. Simpson |

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OLVIN DRYSDALE md. Nancy Williams (1821-1860). They were living near Francisco, east of Princeton, shortly before the outbreak of the Civil War, for their daughter Mary recalled at the time of her centennial (1948) the excitement in Francisco when an abolitionist shot a sympathizer with the South. After the death of Nancy (1860) Calvin married again; name of second wife and names of children by second marriage, unknown. Present list of their children made by combining 1850 census with list of those whom Aunt Josie Record remembers. There may be some errors and some omissions:-

- i) James B., b. about 1842; d. of wounds after Battle of Murfreesboro, early in 1863
- ii) Levina, b. abt. 1843
- iii) Reuben, b. abt. 1845
- iv) Mary, b. 1848; md. G. S. Williams; celebrated her centennial, 1948
- v) Andrew T., b. 1850

In 1850 census, Sarah Drysdale, age 58, was living with this family; we suppose she was Calvin's mother. The following named children were presumably born after the 1850 census: order of birth not known:-

Elizabeth B.	md John Tribble
Matilda	md. Alex Emerson
Jackson	md. Anna DePriest
xxxxxx	md.
George	md. Mollie . . .
<i>Abraham</i>	

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ABSALOM YEAGER (1820-1901) md. Elizabeth Williams (1823-1915)

- i) Henry b. Nov. 23, 1843; md. Carrie Sipp Staser
- ii) Newton b. Oct. 20, 1845; never md.
- iii) James, b. Nov. 3, 1847; md. Lottie Kitchin
- iv) Mary, second wife of Taylor Record; census gives her name as ~~xx~~ Margaret, b. abt 1851
- v) Andrew, b. abt 1853; md. Rosa Lowe
- vi) William C. md. Lillie Cunningham
- vii) Emma F., b. abt. 1859; md. Samuel Stone

Our Martin Ancestors

If there were plenty of time and strength and money, we could improve this Martin chapter in two ways: (1) working in Virginia and Washington and Georgia and South Carolina archives, we could iron out many items of Martin history down to 1800; and (2) working in Gibson and Posey and especially Vanderburg records, we could gather a great deal more about James Martin's three sons who helped populate those counties before 1850. New items keep trickling in; but if we wait until all's perfect, we'll wait too long and all we have gathered will be lost.

It happens that we have had to make a good many corrections in the D A R version of the Martin story. Please we are not faulting anybody. Various committees and the compilers of various books about the colonial and Revolutionary period have had to handle enormous amounts of material. They have made some mistakes regarding the Martins; where we know that a certain item is a mistake, we correct it, not to be contentious but to be as accurate as possible. No sensible person wants shoddy history, especially when a true account is better than romance.

I

ABRAM MARTIN (I), b. 1645. "One of the younger sons of an English family who owned large estates near Galway, Ireland. Abram Martin came to Albemarle County, Va., in 1680." (Mackenzie's Colonial Families of the U. S., Vol I, p. 271) We have not attempted to check this. Merely note that Albemarle County was not established until the 1740's. We'd be willing to swap those estates in Galway for a few more facts about Abram in Virginia; but Mackenzie's teaspoonful is all that we have.

II

John Martin, son of Abram (I), 1685-18 1756; md. Letitia Elizabeth Lewis. I wish we knew more about him, where he lived, what he did. Doubtless we could learn something about Letitia Lewis if there were time to explore the rather extensive Lewis.

rather extensive Lewis genealogies. John and Letitia had 6 children:-

✓1) Mary, b. 1703; md. . . . Clark. We think she was born nearer 1708. One of the printed accounts reads: "Mother of Gen. George Rogers Clark." That is a mistake; his mother was Agnes Rogers.

✓2) John Martin Jr. One record says he was b. in 1706; another, 1710. We think the second is more likely. One account says he was the "ancestor of Luther Martin of Maryland." But The Dictionary of American Biography says the parents of Luther Martin are unknown. We are not fault-finding just for the sake of contradicting; but clearly somebody who drew up the D A R account many years ago jumped at conclusions. From a more accurate authority (William and Mary Quarterly, series 2, vol. 12) we learn that John Martin (1710-1787) md. Ann Farish; their daughter Letitia md. Major James Carter.

3) Elizabeth Martin, b. about 1712. "Ancestor of Stephen A. Douglas." No, that is another mistake.

4) Letitia Martin d. young.

5) Thomas B. Martin, b. 1714, md. Anne Morgan

6) Abram Martin (II) b. Feb 7, 1716; d. 1780; md. Oct. 4, 1744 to Elizabeth Marshall (b. 1725; d. some time after 1784). To keep the generations straight in mind, let's give Abram (II) and Elizabeth a separate section.

III

We have not tasted the records here, but it seems to be established that Abram (II) was an officer of Virginia colonial militia, and a surveyor, a friend of Washington, and a comrade of Washington in the ill-fated Braddock campaign. He is said to have continued his profession of surveying after he moved to Georgia, and to have been killed by Indians while on a survey in that state in 1780. It is reported to us that the library of the University of Georgia has no record of him. The story of his friendship with Washington appears to be true, and we have no reason to doubt the story of his death.

But regarding that excellent woman, Elizabeth Marshall Martin, wife of Abram (II), we have to correct one error. The D A R record says she was the aunt of John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States; but that is another mistake. (This Martin story is filled with unwarranted attempts at glory.) Here is an outline of the Marshall family:-

1) Thomas Marshall (I) "the Carpenter"; said to have been an immigrant from Wales; d. in Westmoreland Co., Va., in 1704. His will is printed in Beveridge's Life of John Marshall. ~~xxx~~ All the children of Thomas the Carpenter were minors at the time of his death. He names only one child, his eldest son William, in his will; but he had other children, and it is practically certain that "John of the Forest" was his son.

2) John Marshall (I) "of the Forest" lived in Westmoreland County. "The Forest" was the disdainful term for the poorer land in the county. Date of birth of John "of the Forest" not known; he died in the spring of 1752. His will likewise is printed in Beveridge. He names three married daughters, then four sons, then two unmarried daughters, and the will implies clearly that these nine are all of his children. His oldest son (fourth child) is Thomas Marshall (II) (1730-1802), who became the father of the Chief Justice. He does not name Elizabeth Marshall Martin (who married Abram Martin in 1744) among his children. Perhaps he omitted her on purpose? But no; he does name a married daughter Elizabeth (he calls her just "Liz") and she was the wife of one John Smith.

No, the Elizabeth Marshall who married Abram Martin was not a sister of the father of Chief Justice John Marshall. & One scholar thinks she was a daughter of William, oldest son of Thomas the Carpenter, and that she was therefore a cousin of Thomas (1730-1802) who was father of the Chief Justice. In any case, Elizabeth Marshall Martin was a remarkable woman in her own right.

We wish we had more facts. Abram (II) Martin and his wife and their eight sons moved to Georgia at some date between 1768 and 1773. Did they all move in one group? Were any of the sons married in Virginia before they moved? We wish we knew. In what Virginia county or counties would we be likely to find any definite record of this family? We have only one item: "Letty" (Letitia) Martin, daughter of Abram and Elizabeth, married Edward Wade in Charlotte County, Virginia, Oct. 15, 1768. (Don't confuse Charlotte County with Charlottesville, county seat of Albemarle, where the Martins are supposed to have been living before 1700). Surely Abram and most or all of his family were living in Charlotte County in 1768; and - as we shall see - ~~xxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the parents and some or all of the sons were living in or near Augusta, Georgia, by 1775. Nobody seems to know in what order most of the eight sons and one daughter were born; we have birth dates for three; death dates for a few. Seven of the eight sons served in the Revolution - but nobody seems to know which son was too young to serve. To show how difficult it is to unravel the records of Revolutionary service, there were ~~xxxxxx~~ at least four James Martins, and as many Johns, who served in Georgia units. Naturally there has been much confusion regarding them. We will do the best we can:-

Abram Martin (II) and Elizabeth Marshall were md. Oct. 4, 1744.

This appears to be copied from an old Bible record. Here are their 9 children - some of them in their right order:-

1) William Martin, b. 1745 or 1746; it is generally agreed that he was the oldest. He md. Grace Waring - whether in Virginia or in Georgia, we do not know. He was a captain of artillery in the siege of Augusta, Georgia, in the fall of 1779, and was killed in that battle. It is believed he was the only son of Abram (II) and Elizabeth who lost his life in the Revolution. Chapman's History of Edgefield County, S. Car., states that he had 3 children: Robert, Elizabeth, and William.

2) Farclay Martin md. Rachel Clay. A news item quoted from the

Augusta (Georgia) Herald, December 15, 1815, states that Colonel Barkley Martin had recently died while on a surveying trip in Tennessee. Apparently he had become a citizen of Tennessee, for the article states that he represented Bedford and Rutherford Counties in the Tennessee legislature; it states further that he was taken ill while on a survey in "the Cherokee Nation". (Younger readers may need to be informed that "the Cherokee Nation" merely meant the temporary tribal reservation in Tennessee.) The article goes on to speak of Barclay Martin and his family as formerly being well known in the Edgefield District of South Carolina. It appears that nearly all of the eight sons of Abram (II) and Elizabeth, settled in or around "Station 96" in the Edgefield district after the Revolution. Their families had taken refuge there after ~~the~~ being driven out of Augusta.

3) Letitia Martin may come in here - or maybe not until after her brother James. She was married in Charlotte County, Va., Oct. 15, 1768 to Edward Wade, a son of Robert and Elizabeth Wade of Halifax County. Edward Wade died in 1776, leaving four children: William, Abram Martin, Washington, and Betty Marshall Wade.

4) * James Martin; his birth year, given as 1749, seems authentic. He md. Obedience Bugg, daughter of Captain Sherwood and ^{Elizabeth} ~~Agnes~~ (Hobson) Bugg, in or near Augusta, Georgia and at some time before May, 1775.

A news item in an Augusta paper, May 19, 1775, states that Agnes Hobson ^{Elizabeth} Bugg (younger daughter of Captain Sherwood and ~~Agnes~~ Hobson Bugg) was married to James Sims at the home of her sister, Obedience Martin.

We will give James and Obedience a separate section later.

5) George Martin md. Alice Freeman. One record says he was b. in 1754.

6) John Martin md. Elizabeth Terry; one record states that he d. in 1813.

7) Edmund Martin md. Katherine Tutt

8) Matthew Martin md. Sarah Clay - we suppose she was related to the Rachel Clay who md. Barclay Martin. One record states that he was living in Tennessee in 1844

9) Marshall Martin was, we think, youngest of the seven sons who fought in the Revolution. (We cannot figure out which one was too young to serve.) Marshall Martin did not marry until 1784, when he went back up to Alexandria, Virginia, and married Mary Isham Key. Without getting involved too deeply in Virginia society, we may remark that her Isham ancestors were related to the great Edmund Randolph. Nicest item in this connection is a Bible with this inscription: "To my son Captain Marshall Martin and his wife, Mary Key, with the love of their mother, Elizabeth Marshall Martin, Ninety-Six, May 9th, 1784." (Bear in mind, Ninety-Six was - and is - a town in South Carolina, and not the donor's age.) We judge the title "Captain" was a pat of motherly pride; or maybe Marshall Martin had been promoted in the militia after the Revolution. Incidentally, we have complete records of Marshall Martin's family, and of the family of his oldest son, Edmund Randolph Martin, down to around 1850. A letter written by Mary Isham Key Martin, dated 1817, refers to herself as the widow of Marshall Martin.

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No doubt seven of the eight sons of Abram(II) and Elizabeth served in the Revolution. It appears that all served in Georgia units; but as most of them lived in South Carolina (where their families had taken refuge) for some time after the War, their records are divided between the two states. Georgia rewarded its soldiers with a land lottery drawing; theoretically it should help identify these Martin brothers, but it is of little help. Likewise the census⁴⁵ of 1800 and 1810 are of little help.

We know by tradition, through grandmother Matilda Williams Mangrum, who was a daughter of Polly Martin, who was a daughter of James Martin, that James Martin bore the title of colonel. Now there were four James Martins in the Georgia records; no one of them is colonel, but one is Lieutenant-Colonel - which, by courtesy and usage, amounts to the same thing. This James Martin was Lieutenant-Colonel of the famous Refugee Regiment, so-called because the families of most of its men had been exiled away from Augusta by the British. But there is even a more personal bit of evidence in the confusing records:

both Matthew and Marshall Martin were members (without title) of this same Refugee Regiment, and though it is not absolute proof, we think it helps settle the matter: that our James Martin and two of his younger brothers belonged to the same regiment. William Candler was colonel, and our great-great-grandfather, James Martin, was lieutenant-colonel. Also, it is pretty definitely established that the oldest brother, William, who was killed at the Battle of Augusta, was in Colonel Elijah Clarke's regiment. One "authority" states that John Martin was a general, but that mistake came from the careless reading of a certificate of service by some hasty reader in modern times.

Here are some stories about these Martin brothers and their families, which, allowing for the fact that any story gets twisted a little in repetition, we believe to be substantially true. (1) During the campaign in Georgia and South Carolina, the wives of William and Barclay once dressed themselves in ~~their~~ men's uniforms and borrowed two muskets and captured a British courier. The story goes that later on, in their own lady-like clothes, they met him and twitted him. We can only remark that if he was so dumb he didn't recognize them as women, no wonder the British lost that war. (2) Before the Battle of Augusta the British identified Obedience Eugg Martin as the wife of the lieutenant-colonel of the Refugee Regiment, loaded her ~~n~~ "with several small children" onto a wagon and exiled her, and that she drove to her husband's mother's home at Ninety-Six. We think there were only three - and maybe only two - babies in the family in 1779 - but the British were old meanies, anyway. Moreover, our Indiana folks have a very tangible piece of evidence: our Grandmother Mangrum inherited from her mother, Polly Martin, who inherited it from her parents, the very leather trunk which Obedience Martin filled with the family silverware and other precious things and buried to keep the ornery British from stealing it. (3) It is said that after Captain William Martin was killed, a Tory carried word of his death to Elizabeth Marshall Martin, who answered calmly "He could not have died in a better cause." Another story goes, that when a British officer asked her how many sons she had in the war, she answered: "Seven of them are

engaged in the service of their country." "Really, madam," observed the officer sneeringly, "you have enough of them." "No, sir," said the matron proudly, "I wish I had fifty." Now, please, this sounds more than a little like our old school readers, where dialogue was polished and oratorical; but we have no doubt she was a spirited old lady with plenty of back-bone, and that she gave that Tory a piece of her tongue, though perhaps not exactly as quoted.

Thus far we do not know when she died. One guesser states that she died in 1821, which would make her indeed 96 - and though that is not impossible, we surmise that guesser mistook "Ninety-Six" for the lady's age. The forenames Barclay, Matthew, and Marshall stand out in the Edgefield, South Carolina, census records for 1810; the names of the other sons cannot be traced for sure. By other evidence we know that our James Martin and his family were in Tennessee by 1804. Their long trail west of the mountains will be followed in a later chapter.

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Our Hobson and Bugg ancestors.

The record of our first Hobson ancestors in Virginia is meager but we have no reason to doubt any item in it:-

John Hobson migrated to Isle of Wight County, Virginia, in 1635. His son, Matthew Hobson, lived in Henrico County, Virginia. (The Hobsons moved up the James River as settlement advanced.) Nicholas Hobson, son of Matthew, lived in Lunenburg County; he died there in 1758. His wife was Agnes Goode, who (we suppose) was a descendant of John Goode - but we haven't verified that. In his will (1758) Nicholas names four sons: John, Matthew, Nicholas and William; and five daughters:-

Obedience Bacon	(wife of John Bacon)
Agnes Bacon	(wife of William Bacon)
Elizabeth Bugg	(wife of Sherwood Bugg)
Sarah Hobson	
Margratta Hobson	

He also names a grandson, Nicholas Bilbo, but does not mention the boy's mother, though she was still living.

Nicholas Hobson bequeathed more than 4000 acres to his children, beside a plantation to his wife, Agnes. We have no birthdates for his family, but estimate that his daughter Elizabeth was born about 1730 and that she married Sherwood Bugg about 1750.

The widow Agnes Goode Hobson married Richard Gillem or Gilliam about 1763, and she and her husband with most of her children moved to Richmond County, Georgia - the neighborhood of Augusta. There her oldest son, John Hobson (II) died late in 1767, unmarried. His will, probated in January, 1768, names all his brothers and sisters who were named in the will of his father, Nicholas, in 1758, and adds the name of his sister Mary Bilbo. We have not seen a copy of this will, but the index of Georgia records later on indicates that most of the Hobson family were established in Georgia by 1768. Certain D A R records indicate that John Hobson's brother Nicholas commanded a regiment, and his brother William a company, in the Revolutionary War.

Our Bugg ancestors

There are some discrepancies between various printed accounts of the Bugg family in New Kent and Lunenburg counties, Virginia. We think the following is correct:-

Samuel Bugg (I) (d. 1716) md Deborah Sherwood (d. 1715) We find the name Sherwood spelled Sherrard in one version.

Samuel Bugg (II) md. Sarah Bacon, who may have been related to the John and William Bacon who married Obedience and Agnes Hobson, daughters of Nicholas Hobson. Samuel and Sarah were married about 1716, and had 9 children, of whom Sherwood was born July 8, 1720. (One record says he was their second child.) The will of Samuel Bugg (II) was entered for probate in Lunenburg County in 1759. He names his sons: Jacob, Sherwood, Edmund, Samuel, and Anselm; one daughter, Ruth Fowler; and four grandsons. Now the family evidently had a fondness for the names of those sons, and we suspect that Samuel (II) had brothers named Jacob and Anselm - and perhaps one or two more. For

there are wills of Jacon and John and Anselm and William Bugg in Virginia in the 1760's and '70's; and there are wills of Anselm and Edmund and William and Jacob in Richmond County, Georgia, between 1782 and 1807. We are too tired to try to figure out who were sons and who were nephews and who were brothers of - anybody. The surname becpmes common in Georgia and overflows into the Edgefield district of South Carolina.

We wish we had a dependable record of the family of Captain Sherwood and Elizabeth Hobson Bugg. We know only that they had two daughters: Obedience, who married James Martin at some time before May 19, 1775; and Agnes Hobson Bugg, who married James Sims in Augusta on that date. Did they have other children ? We don't know. One D A R record states: "Sherwood Bugg commanded a company in Colonel Jackson's regiment, Georgia tropps. He was taken prisoner and his home on Beech Island, S. C._ar., where his wife nursed the wounded, was often raided by the British and Tories. He was born in Lunenburg County, Va.; died in Augusta, Ga." This same record states that Elizabeth Hobson Bugg died in 1799. It is only fair to say that this same record makes two mistakes regarding James Martin and his son, James Jr., and therefore we have to feel certain reservations about it.

We have a transcript of the family of James Sims and Agnes Hobson Bugg (sister of Obedience). They had seven children; those who lived became great So therners. And so on down, generation after generation, we simply keep shedding relatives like autumn leaves. The forest floor of our country should be rich in leaf-mold.

Just to warn you not to accept as gospel truth everything that you see in print, we found in Duke University Library the statement that Henry Willes Cob, of Cobham (we don't know where that is but it sounds like Georgia) married Obedience Dutiful Bugg, daughter of Captain Sherwood Bugg. The very idea ! trying to steal our own authentic great-great-grandmother ! As if our great-grand other, Polly Martin Williema, didn't know who her own ~~xxix~~ mother was. Somebody made a bad mistake, and somebody printed it, and other

trusting should will go on copying it until Judge-ent Day, when (we hope) some of the mistakes in genealogy will be cleared up. Writers in this field ought to be particularly careful, and readers should remember that a statement is not necessarily true because you see it in print. On my desk at this moment is a D A R record which states that James Martin (meaning our own James Martin) died in South Carolina in 1813. But we know that on July 3, 1813, he was helping found the Big Creek Baptist Church in the woods near Cynthiana, Indiana; that he had left South Carolina at least nine years before 1813, and that he continued to preach in the little log churches in the woods between Vincennes and Evansville for many years after that date. Another confident mistake turns up: a genealogical authority sent us the statement that "Letitia Matilda Williams", youngest daughter of Bennett and Polly Martin Williams, married James Emerson. Now if you please, ~~xxxxxxx~~ this "authority" meant our own beloved Grandmother Mangrum, faithful and lifelong wife of John Neely Mangrum. Come, come! we know our own folks. And we wonder how anybody could ever be mistaken about Grandmother Mangrum. Her mind was clear and firm, and we allow she ought to know whom she married.

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James Martin Moves West

We do not know when James Martin left South Carolina. He and his family were in Tennessee at some time in 1804, when his daughter Sarah Jane married Patrick Galvert; and he was settled in Warren County, Kentucky, for land along Trammel Creek. by tax time in 1805, for the collector garnere him in there that year. Somewhere along the line - in South Carolina or Tennessee - he had been ordained a Baptist preacher - "elder" they called it. He continued on the tax roll in Warren until (including) 1808. His son, James Martin Jr., married Sarah, daughter of Simon Williams, in Warren County, in 1805; and Elder Martin's daughter Polly married Bennett Williams, son of Simon,

We have it on good report that the oldest history of Vanderburg County states that Charles and Thomas Martin, younger sons of our Elder James Martin Sr., settled in northern Vanderburg County around 1806, but we think that is ~~is~~ two years too early. For one thing, Charles Martin was born in 1791, and would have been only 15; and though we have not the birth-date of Thomas, we think he was not much older. One of their descendants telling family traditions to the editor of the history three-quarters of a century after the event, could easily be two years off regarding a date. At some time, then, in the summer or fall of 1808 Lieutenant-Colonel and also Elder James Martin moved from Kentucky to Vanderburg County, Indiana.

It is odd how one thing leads to another. The curator of The American Baptist Historical Society (Chester, Pa.), answering my question about an entirely different matter, enclosed, out of good will, the following paragraph from David Benedict's History of the Baptists:—"In 1806, the Wabash Church was formed about eight miles north of Vincennes, and the same year, the Bethel Church settlement further down the Wabash River. In 1808 the Patoka Church was organized in what is now Gibson County, and the Salem Church still farther south. The same year, the Wabash District Association was organized. . . . The ministers who were instrumental in gathering these churches in the Wilderness were Alexander Devin, Samuel Jones, James Martin, and Isaac McCoy." Note: this statement does not mean that all four of the men named were in the Indiana field in 1806; merely, all four had a hand in the work by 1808 or 1809.

Who were the children of James and Obedience Martin? There are some documents of South Carolina origin that speak about older daughters and their husbands who seem never to have been heard of in the West. Then beginning with Kentucky and Indiana documents, we have authentic record of persons and matters which the South Carolina committees of the D A R have never heard of. We give you the best record we can, with this warning:

we cannot vouch for the material furnished by the South Carolina D A R: we have found two bad mistakes in that part; that fact makes us skeptical of the rest, yet the rest may be true. The children of James and Cbedience:-

- 1) Prudence Martin md. (1) . . . Cooke; (2) C. Martin; (3) . . Fleming.
- 2) Keziah Martin md. George McMurphy
- 3) Elizabeth Martin md. West Cooke
- 4) Letitia Martin md. Henry Crawley
- ✓5) Sarah Jane Martin, b. 1783 according to one record; 1784, according to another. The D A R records says she md. . . . Rogers, but we know that is a mistake - unless she married him very young and was widowed early. For we know she md. Patrick Calvert in 1804.
- ✓6) James Martin Jr. b. Dec. 18, 1784 (according to his gravestone); d. in Gibson County, Nov. 1825. The D A R record says that he married . . . Harris; but that is a mistake. We know he married Sarah Williams in Warren County, Ky., in 1805.
- ✓7) Mary "Polly" Martin, b. March 4, 1788, in South Carolina; md. Bennett Williams, Dec. 27, 1806; d. in Posey County, Nov. 4, 1847
- ✓8) Charles Martin, b. in South Carolina in 1791; was md. to Frances Rook in 1812, in Indiana.
- ✓9) Thomas Martin; we are not sure whether he was older or younger than Charles. He md. in Indiana. Since he named one of his sons "Alcorn", it is a fair supposition that his wife may have been an Alcorn, a daughter of Thomas Alcorn (1777-1855) - but that is only supposition.

We know nothing about the first four named, with this barely possible exception: one charter member of the Big Creek Baptist church in July, 1813, was Nancy Crowley. Letitia, fourth daughter named above, may have had a second name Nancy, and Crawley and Crowley could easily be interchanged. But that is a slight clue. Beside the mistakes regarding the marriages of Sarah Jane to Patrick Calvert and of James Jr. to Sarah Williams, the D A R record omits Charles and Thomas, though Charles, at least, and almost certainly Thomas also were born in South Carolina. We will tell more about the Indiana branches of the family a little later.

This next item may cause a shock of surprise. On July 3, 1813, when the Big Creek Baptist Church was organized near Cynthiana, the list of charter members begins with: "James Martin & Milly his wife". Now this was

our own James Martin; the church minutes prove it in many details; his son-in-law, Bennett Williams, was a staunch and faithful member from shortly after the founding. We have to conclude that Obedience Bugg Martin died either before the family left South Carolina, or, more likely, somewhere on the long journeys through the wilderness, and that James Martin married again. (One Bible record has the entry that Obedience died in 1824; but almost certainly that refers to Obedience, daughter of Bennett and Polly Williams; Obedience Williams was a twin with Fanny (b. 1814) Polly Martin Williams passed on to her children so many vivid memories of her mother, Obedience, that we feel sure the mother had many years of companionship with Polly. If Obedience died ~~xxxx~~ in Indiana, her grave must be unmarked, else some tradition of the place would have come down to our Grandmother Mangrum.

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That organization of the Big Creek Baptist Church gets to be important in our family history. Here is the first paragraph of the minutes, with spelling and punctuation "as is." "This is to certify to thos it may concern that on this ~~xxix~~ 3 day of July 1813 that James Martin & milly his wife John Armstrong and Mary his wife James Waldron Nency Crowley Sarah Smith and Franky Martin was constituted and Acknowledged to be a Church of Christ on Big Creek Gibson County Indiana Territory by

Ellexander Devin
Samuel Jones."

(Franky Martin was Frances Rook Martin, bride of Charles.) Evidently the church was in the extreme southwest corner of Johnson Township; the organization - but probably not the building - was later moved to Canthiana. Elder James Martin was named pastor soon after the organization. He continued as pastor until the February meeting, 1817, but he often was moderator after that. I did not find his name in the minutes after the September meeting, 1820. On that occasion the church raised

a sum for current expenses; the minutes list the contributors and the amounts they gave:

25 cents

Thomas Martin
Aaron Endicott
George Smith
George Eaton
Joseph Endicott

12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents

James Martin
William Lowe
William Mullen
Bennett Williams

The regular minutes do not list the deaths of members; the fact that James Martin's name doesnot appear again, would indicate th either that he died soon after September, 1820, or that he moved away. Usually a devoted Baptist moving away would ask for an receive a letter recommending him to another church. I found no record of any such letter - but it must be remembered that the minutes omitted many items.

For instance, the minutes do not tell when Bennett Williams joined; yet in March, 1815, he is chosen deacon, and in the following July, treasurer. Likewise, Bennett's father and several of his brothers are presently in the church but with no minutes of their joining. By 1822 our great-great-grandfather Simon Williams, his sons Bennett and Lewis and William, and his sons-in-law Moses Pruitt, and Joseph Cater, with their wives, were in the fold.

There was no racial discrimination. In February, 1821, "Loesa a black woman" was received into fellowship; and the next month, "Mace a black woman" and "Wesley a man of color," were received. We regret terribly to have to record that Wesley and ~~Rxxxx~~ Loesa did not hold out faithful - at least not to the church.

The members were so earnest, and so poor in this world's goods: "Every male member is to pay one bushel of corn by the first of March next or its value in money or bacon - corn at two shillings per bushel, Bacon at six pence per pound."

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As noted above James Martin's name disappears from the minutes of Big Creek Church after September, 1820. Back in 1814 he had entered a quarter-section of land in Vanderburg County (S W $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 19, Twp 4 S, R 11 W); and on December 23, 1813, he bought for \$40 a lot in the new town of Evansville. If he lived beyond 1820 he may have moved to Evansville - but that is only conjecture. There is the slimmest chance that the minutes of some other Baptist church may mention him after 1820. We feel sure that he would attend a Baptist church somewhere as long as he was able to go. There is another slim chance that his death may have been mentioned in something printed long ago, perhaps in some Baptist history other than the one we have quoted, or in some old county history. He seems to have been on the kindest terms with all three of his sons, and with both daughters and their husbands. If poverty or illness caused him to live with any one of the five children, it is blind guess-work to speculate as to which one. Every family had a Bible in those days; and we still hope that some heirloom Bible once kept by some of the Calverts or Martins may be found containing facts about his death. Every such Bible is likely to have one or two items not contained in any other.

It seems almost certain that his grave is unmarked; no blame to the pioneers. In the older cemeteries how many grave-stones do you find that date from 1825 or earlier? And few indeed before 1840. Nature is not such of a hand at taking care of graves and gravestones, though she seems to be impartial.

The Family of Patrick and Sarah Jane (Martin) Calvert

Patrick Calvert, b. in Tennessee, Dec. 11, 1781; d. August 11, 1840 in
Sixx Posey County

Sarah Jane Martin, b. in N South Carolina; the Calvert Family record says
she was b. Feb. 6, 1784; another record says, 1783. The gravestone of
her brother James Jr. says he was b. Dec. 18, 1784. We don't know.
Sarah Jane d. Feb. 14, 1861 in Posey County.

A descendant of Patrick and Sarah Jane (Russell Calvert) has compiled an
unusually extensive record of them and their descendants. Home folks in
Indiana will know of Calvert's Chapel, southeast of Cynthiana; the well-kept
ch. rchyard contains the graves of so many Calverts and Fruitts it is a family
history in itself. (Remember, all these Fruitts are descendants of Simon
Williams.) Borrowing from Russell Calvert's manuscript book, and cross-
checking with other records, we have this list of the nine children of
Patrick and Sarah Jane:-

- 1) James Calvert, b. 1806, d. Dec. 5, 1877. The Valvert book says he
md. Martha J. Ewin (Ewing), July 12, 1831. The cemetery record
gives his wife as Nancy Casey (1803-1877). Several other members of
the Ewin (Ewing) family are buried at Calvert's Chapel. We suppose
they were related to the Henry Ewing who married Fanny Williams, daughter
of Bennett and Polly. You will find an unhappy note about him in the
Williams chapter.
- 2) Robert Calvert md. Lydia Smith
- 3) Elizabeth Calvert (1811-1855) md. Moses Endicott (1802-1882). We
suppose the four Endicotts who married the four Calverts were of
one family. Moses and his brother Joseph and their Calvert wives
were bx buried at Poseyville. The Endicotts had quite a hand in
Big Creek Church affairs. And while we are mentioning them, note that
Susan Endicott (1794-1869) md. George Lowe (1794-1862). Folks were
considerably related to one another in those days.
- 4) Jane Calvert md. Harry Endicott
- 5) Nancy Calvert, b. Aug. 4, 1816; d. Jan. 18, 1876; md. Joseph Endicott
(1815-1882)
- 6) Wm. Calvert (1818-1897) md. Martha Endicott
- 7) Leroy Calvert (1819-1898) md. Penelope Shelton (1821-1876)
- 8) Caswell Calvert (1823-1893) md. Rebecca Casey (1828-1903)
- 9) Casey Calvert 1825-1827)

Patrick Calvert must have been regarded as a dependable man. James Martin Jr., dying in 1825, appointed Patrick Calvert (his brother-in-law) one of the executors of his will; and Bennett Williams (our great-grandfather), dying in 1837, also named his brother-in-law Patrick Calvert as one of his executors. The more we reflect upon it, the more we are convinced there were some exceptionally good men at Tippecanoe.

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The Family of James Martin, Jr.

James Martin, Jr. (1784-1825) md. Sarah Williams (b. 1786) in Warren County, Kentucky, in 1803.

James Martin Jr. was taxed in Warren County, Ky., in 1807. We suppose he came to Indiana with his father in 1803, but he did not settle with his younger brothers in Vanderburg. He lived northwest of Princeton; was buried at Maumee cemetery. In his will he names two sons, Bailey and William Martin, but also mentions "all my children" in such a way as to make it clear there were others. (That forename Bailey keeps appearing in Williams and Martin families; no doubt there was a surname Bailey back there somewhere - and we do hate to miss an ancestor!) Thus far we haven't much of a record of this branch. The Martin name keeps re-appearing in that section of Gibson County for several decades.

James Jr's widow, Sarah, married William Steel, Jan. 7, 1828.

We have no further record of this branch.

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The Family of Bennett and Polly Martin Williams will be listed under the Williams heading.

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The Family of Charles and Frances Rook Martin

I am sorry we have so little. We are told that Charles and Frances had 13 children. If we could work with Vanderburg records and (possibly) find one or t

one or two old family Bibles of Martin descendants, we'd know more. Surely somebody in so large a family kept records as faithful as those kept by our aunts in Cynthiana.

We only know that Charles Martin and Frances (Franky) Rook were married at some time before July 3, 1813. Their oldest son, xx William, was born in 1814; he married Nancy Robinson on October 3, 1833; she was born May 3, 1814, Knox near Maxxville, Tennessee. William died in 1891. Their ten children:-

- 1) M. Dean Martin (1834-1914) md (1) Sarah Ellen . . .; (2) Elizabeth F. Smith Rosborough
- 2) Charles S. Martin (1836-1912) md. Lydia J. Pruitt (she was a descendant of Simon Williams)
- 3) Abner Nelson Martin
- 4) James Thomas Martin
- 5) Thomas Ancil Martin md. Eliza Cleveland
- 6) Susanna Martin md (1) Thomas Gwaltney; (2) Samuel Mauck
- 7) Jasper Martin
- 8) Wm. Ford Martin md. (1) Elizabeth Williams; (2) Caroline Mangrum; she was a daughter of Uncle Trafton and Aunt Eunice Mangrum
- 9) Naomi Martin (1855-1910) md. Thomas J. Pruitt
- 10) Joseph L. Martin md. Amanda Cleveland.

Now if we only had William Martin's twelve brothers and sisters, and if they had 10 children each, we'd have 120 more relatives.

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The Family of Thomas Martin, son of Elder James Martin

From one source or another we have the names of six of his children.

One of his sons he named Alcorn, which is a fair clue - but not proof - that Thomas had md. an Alcorn girl; if so, probably a daughter of Thomas Alcorn (1777-1855), whose daughter Jane md. John Smith, older brother of our great-grandma Elizabeth Smith Redman Epperson. If Thomas Martin was within two or three years of his brother Charles - older or younger - it is likely known that he married around 1815. His six children:-

- 1) Matilda Martin md. . . . McDonald. He may have been related to the Julia Ann McDonald who md. James Williams, 5th child of Bennett and Polly.
 - 2) Sarah Martin md. . . . Scott
 - 3) Betsy Martin md. James Haines
 - 4) Lucinda Martin md. William Haines. These Haines brothers were sons of Peter Haines who came from Kentucky to Posey County about 1814.
 - 5) Alcorn Martin
 - 6) John Martin
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